

Arthur Miall
18 Banerrie St. E.

THE
Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT, AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXV.—NEW SERIES, No. 1031.]

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Derby, 1865.

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The Committee thankfully acknowledge the support they have already received, and earnestly solicit its continuance. The number of applicants is greatly increasing, proving the necessity for this new and important Charity.

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Office, 56, Ludgate-hill, E.C.

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Contributions will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, H. E. Gurney, Esq., Lombard-street, and by

JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary.

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August, 1865.

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ALFRED S. RICHARDS, Secretary.

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THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT, AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXV.—NEW SERIES, No. 1031.]

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Eccliaastical Affairs.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE DISSENTERS.

SOME months ago we were informed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, at the invitation of the Rev. Newman Hall, had met at the house of the latter a small party of gentlemen consisting chiefly of distinguished Nonconformist divines, and had spent an evening in comparing notes with them on some of the great questions lying within the sphere of ecclesiastical politics. We heard, on what we took to be good authority, that Dr. Vaughan was the principal spokesman in that interview on behalf of the fundamental and distinctive principles to which the vast majority of Protestant Dissenters are committed, and that he discharged his responsibility not only in a singularly able manner, but in a spirit of strict fidelity to the truths held by himself and his brethren. We were told that the Rev. H. Christopherson was present at that meeting, that he took no active part in the conversation, but that, shortly afterwards, he addressed a letter to Mr. Gladstone recording his dissent from the positions taken up by Dr. Vaughan, and stating his impression that a very large number of Nonconformists shared his views. The whole matter having been a private one, we did not think fit to notice it in our columns; but inasmuch as Mr. Christopherson has now published the correspondence between the Chancellor and himself in the *Daily News*, we avail ourselves of the legitimate opportunity thus afforded us, of making a few comments on it.

It is much to be regretted that the circumstance connected with the interview which the public would have least cared to hear about is precisely that which has been thus thrust into prominence. A *precis* of the conversation in which Mr. Christopherson took no part, from which might have been gleaned Mr. Gladstone's mode of viewing the main principle on which modern Dissent rests, his objections to it both as a Christian gentleman of high culture, and as a statesman, and, more especially, his notion of the best relations to be established in this country between the civil power and religious bodies, would have attracted to itself extreme interest, and would probably have been found to be highly significant. That nothing of the kind has appeared is due, no doubt, to the anxiety of the gentlemen present to avoid committing Mr. Gladstone before the public to sentiments expressed by him in the freedom of private intercourse. But as it was impossible to publish that to which the public would have attached considerable importance, it is the more tantalising to be put in possession of that which, in comparison, will be regarded as trivial. What peculiar views may be held by the Rev. H. Christopherson on the subject of Church Establishments, and what Mr. Gladstone thinks of them, may be highly interesting to himself and to the

rather inconsiderable minority who concur with him, but they can scarcely be of equal attraction to the public. It may be, and probably is a matter of necessity to exclude it from the banquet, but then Mr. Christopher must not be offended if it sets no great store by the scrap or two which he has distributed to it from his own larder.

It strikes us as a mistake in judgment, to say the least of it, that the rev. gentleman did not express at the interview the extent to which he differed from his friends, or that, having, for the reasons he has stated, deemed it better to hold his tongue, that he should subsequently have avowed that difference in a private letter. We have no fault to find with the tone of his communication. He has done his best to guard himself against misapprehension. But it seems to us a questionable course to unite with a company of gentlemen of the highest respectability in submitting to a statesman in Mr. Gladstone's position a statement of the convictions cherished by the great majority of Dissenters, to listen to his observations upon them, and afterwards to communicate, separately and in writing, information of his own dissent from the position assumed by his colleagues, and from their estimate of the proportionate numbers by whom it is held. Mr. Gladstone may have inferred that, although only one of the silent members of that company had reconciled it with his sense of good taste to write to him, there may have been others who might have done so but for their deference to the rules of etiquette. The proceeding may well have thrown a shade of doubt upon his mind whether after all he had got at the *real* views of the company he had met, and have led him to attach little importance to the representations which had been so gravely made to him. Had Mr. Christopherson spoken out his mind in the presence of his brethren, the Chancellor would have been able to judge pretty accurately of the extent to which what he had previously heard ought to be qualified. As it was, he may have concluded that he had been misled, and no formal disclaimers on the part of his correspondent would have corrected that impression as it might have been corrected had the difference of opinion been manfully avowed in the presence of the whole assembly.

Mr. Christopherson's case is that "multitudes of men who would be acquisitions to the strength of the Church of England remain outside her borders because, like himself, they cannot strain their charity to the full extent of the service for the 'Burial of the Dead'—they cannot sanction, even in words, the *opus operatum* of the 'Baptismal Office'—they cannot claim co-ordinate authority with the Apostles in the 'Order for the Visitation of the Sick'—they cannot offend their notions of modern decorum and decency in the office for the 'Solemnisation of Matrimony'—and lastly, they cannot consign to everlasting damnation, so far as their creed could do it, all the victims of a doubt, on the transcendentalism—the microscopic transcendentalism—of the Athanasian Creed." He thinks that if the Chancellor of the Exchequer should be misled into the conviction that no relief would be valued by any considerable party among Dissenters short of the entire disendowment of religion, he (Mr. Gladstone) would consider any action towards such relief wasted energy; and he submits that on a great question like this, statesmen should learn even the judgments of minorities, and he (Mr. Christopherson) is one of those who agree with the dictum uttered by Mr. Isaac Taylor, that "half a dip of ink would reconcile hundreds of Nonconformists to the Established Church."

To this Mr. Gladstone replies, as we think, most unanswerably, that the letter does not open any wider ground of co-operation than the conversation. Church Reform, Liturgical Revision, and the like, are quite as difficult to be effected as complete disendowment. The alterations which could be made with "half a dip of ink," would "eject many more than they would admit." Politicians who would not refuse to consider the political status of the Establishment would never-

theless take fright at any serious attempt to meddle with the doctrines of that Church. "Many a Churchman," says Mr. Gladstone, "would deal liberally in questions of admission to equality of all civil, social, or educational privilege, who not only would resist attempts to alter the Church itself, but would from fear of this latter object become jealous of all concessions appertaining to the former." There is not a doubt of it. In fact, the impending struggle cannot be turned into a theological one, and if it could would be far from desirable. The tendency of the age is towards settling first the relations in which Divine Truth should stand to the temporal power. When that question is substantially disposed of, the other question, "What is Truth?" will have a chance of being more dispassionately considered. "Unless we greatly mistake the signs of the times," wisely remarks the *Daily News*, in its admirable comments on this correspondence, "we are entering upon an era when the various Christian bodies of this country will need all the support which they can give to one another without sacrificing principle, and then it will become matter of regret if it should be found that the feelings naturally born of invidious distinctions in respect of civil, social, or educational privilege, have been allowed to hinder a mutual appreciation of the good that exists in each body, and delay the time when existing grounds of difference might be examined in a spirit of charity, with a fairer prospect of their removal."

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

We have before us the report of the House of Commons Committee, appointed to inquire into the constitution of the Committee of Council on Education, and to consider the best modes of extending the system of Government education. The committee have reported the evidence which they have taken without making any recommendation, excepting that the inquiry which they had undertaken should be resumed. We find that an unusually large number of witnesses was examined—the number being no less than thirty-four. The principal witnesses were Mr. Lingen; Mr. Lowe, M.P.; Mr. Bruce, M.P.; Mr. Adderley, M.P.; the Marquis of Salisbury; the Rev. J. G. Lonsdale; Earl Granville; Earl Russell, and Archdeacon Denison. Most of the other witnesses were Church of England clergymen.

The evidence taken by the committee is comprised in nearly nine thousand questions and answers. The committee itself consisted of fifteen members, one only of whom was a Nonconformist, viz., Mr. W. E. Foster, Unitarian, member for Bradford. Not one Nonconformist witness was called before it. This, of course, is not the fault or the defect of the committee. Men who know how committees of the House of Commons are managed, know perfectly well that any witness, or any evidence, which it may be deemed desirable to bring before such a committee, can be brought before it. If, therefore, the Nonconformist interest has not been duly represented, it may be taken to be the fault of Nonconformists themselves. Archdeacon Denison, as soon as he knew of the appointment of the committee wrote to offer himself as a witness, and was at once accepted. That no Nonconformist did the same may be taken, perhaps, as evidence that no Nonconformist is quite as zealous in the matter of sectarian education as is Archdeacon Denison.

The evidence which has now been given will, no doubt, have an important influence on the administration of the Education Grant, if not on the general system of State Education in England. The first question in the mind of the Committee was, apparently, the constitution of the Committee of Privy Council; the second, the Conscience Clause; and the third, the possibility of extending State Education throughout England. Summarising, in a few lines, the results of our own reading of the evidence, we think

we are warranted in saying that the working of the Committee of Privy Council comes out unscathed—supposing, that is to say, that such a Committee is, in any sense, consistent with the constitution; with regard to the extension of State Education in England, the official witnesses, such as Mr. Lingen, Mr. Bruce, Mr. Lowe, and others, unite in the opinion that a local rate would be abstractedly desirable, but that, in the present condition of English society, it is impossible. With regard to the other question, that, viz., of the Conscience Clause, around which the principal arguments took place, we can also report an almost equally unanimous opinion. Mr. Lingen, Mr. Lowe, Mr. Bruce, Mr. Adderley, Earl Granville, and Earl Russell gave evidence strongly in favour of such a clause—Liberal and Conservative, for once uniting on a question of ecclesiastical politics. Earl Granville went so far as to say that he would extend the clause to annual grants, and that the only reason why it had not been brought before the Legislature was, that it was considered to be desirable to make a satisfactory arrangement with the Church, in the first instance. It also came out that the Government considered that the House of Commons would not be satisfied with what would satisfy the Established Church only, and that the majority of the members of the Church—Archdeacon Denison himself being witness—were in favour of the most perfect liberty being conceded to Nonconformists.

The most ultra Church witnesses examined by the Committee were the Rev. J. G. Lonsdale, the secretary to the National Society, and Archdeacon Denison. Both these gentlemen seem to live in fear of the Liberation Society. We quote the following from Mr. Lonsdale's evidence:—

1637. With respect to the Conscience Clause, you have stated that your objection to it was that it would drive the clergy from the schools; what is there in the Conscience Clause which you consider would have that unfortunate effect?—To put the matter strongly, perhaps, it would be open to any agent of the so-called Liberation Society to come down into a parish and stir up that parish, and say, "Here you have this handle against your clergyman, insist upon your rights everywhere, and do not let that clergyman teach you the catechism."

1638. The Conscience Clause is only asked for in the case where the majority of the children already belong to the Church of England, is it not so?—If I understand rightly, it is where the majority do not belong to the Church of England.

1639. Then, perhaps, you will accept it from me, that where the majority do not belong to the Church of England, it is extremely doubtful whether a Church school would be considered as coming within the sanction of the code; that, as a matter of fact, the Conscience Clause is imposed where the majority of the children belong to the Church of England, but where there is a considerable minority of Dissenters; such being the case, do you suppose that an agent of the Liberation Society could proceed with any effect into a parish where the majority belong to the Church of England, and could induce the parents to withdraw their children from the school?—I could conceive such a case, certainly.

1640. But do not you conceive that such an event as that is altogether of extremely remote probability?—I am not so sure as to that.

1641. You have very great faith in the vigour and efficacy of the proceedings of the Liberation Society?—They are very active, certainly, and I do not know what might happen.

Archdeacon Denison took exactly the same view:—

3839. Do you think that if the Conscience Clause were generally imposed, there would be an organised opposition of parents on objections of this kind?—I think you would immediately have the Liberation Society sending out their emissaries for schools, as they do now with regard to Church-rates; and it is my distinct opinion, that they would be poking their noses into every parish to try and urge people to form a combination against the clergyman to force upon him the secular system in his school.

3840. And by the powerful action of such an organization, and by a liberal expenditure, would they not probably be able to disorganise most of the Church schools in the country?—I believe they would.

These gentlemen, however, stood, we are glad to say, almost alone amongst the witnesses. Statesmen and parochial clergymen, as a rule, united in favour of the most extreme concession to the claims of conscience. In fact, Archdeacon Denison was driven to the acknowledgment that a Dissenter had a conscience, and that it was entitled to respect.

It is impossible to write at length or with breadth on the whole of the valuable evidence which the Committee have taken. We may, however, say that there appears, from this evidence, to exist, a general feeling on the part of doctrinaire statesmen in favour of a national system of education; that this feeling is now taking the form of local rating, on the Manchester secular principle; that the main objections to the adoption of a scheme in harmony with such a principle is a strong Church feeling on the one side, and a strong voluntary Nonconformist feeling on another side; that statesmen of all classes are agreed in the admission of the justice of Nonconformist claims; that those who oppose such claims form a small but stubborn minority of the clergy; that it is probable that a Minute will ultimately be drawn up and sub-

mitted to Parliament, by which the rights of Nonconformists will be guaranteed; that a portion of the clergy will thereupon draw away from the Privy Council system; and that, in the last case, the whole system will come to an end.

We have not space, this week, to give that attention to this subject which its importance demands, but we may possibly, in future numbers, give insertion to some extracts from the evidence of the Committee. At present we think that we are guilty of no rhetorical exaggeration when we say that the labours of its members, and the evidence of the witnesses—Churchmen though they all are—will be held to mark a great advance of public opinion in favour of perfect religious equality. It is impossible to read not merely the evidence of witnesses, but the questions of the chairman of the committee, Sir John Pakington, without feeling that there is a "good time coming" after all, and that right will really triumph over might—Establishments, Bishops and Archdeacons to the contrary, notwithstanding. We do not see, however, why, in the especial matter of education, Nonconformists should be wholly silent. The Liberation Society has never yet, we believe, interfered in this question; but, if no other party is ready to give evidence as to the feeling of Nonconformists, we do not see why it should any longer withhold its interposition. If, for reasons, it should continue to treat this as a neutral question, we hope that some individual Nonconformists will give evidence as able and thorough on their side as Archdeacon Denison has given on the Church side.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE DISSENTERS.

The subjoined correspondence appeared in the *Daily News* of Monday:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY NEWS.

Sir,—The subjoined notes were exchanged some months ago, whilst Mr. Gladstone still filled the "peculiar position" to which, you will see, he refers. Your readers will be able to judge whether the change which has been effected in that "position" by the recent University election encourages a hope that something may be done in Church Reform, or attempted, by the greatest Conservative Reformer of the time. I have obtained his permission, and that of my friend at whose house the interview occurred, to print the notes, because I think that Mr. Gladstone's language, although necessarily cautious, is at the same time significant. Indeed, the conference itself was significant. I will not trouble you to prefix my letter, unless you think it necessary for the comprehension of the Chancellor's reply. If it be published, I am sure that those who take different and wider ground on this question will forgive the narrower opinions of a minority, and will consider that I have sufficiently guarded against the appearance of committing to my views persons with whom I differ, but whom I cherish with the highest respect, and with whom, in many cases, I associate in valuable friendship.

I am, &c.,

H. C.

Upper Avenue-road, August 5.

"Sir,—I had the pleasure, on Tuesday evening, of joining the small company of gentlemen at the house of my friend Mr. Newman Hall, whom you honoured with a visit, and with whom and his guests you held a conference on certain ecclesiastical questions. I took but a slight share in that discussion, partly because the views which I entertain upon the chief topic then in hand would have placed me in a minority, and would probably have occasioned some controversy amongst ourselves, whereas the object before us was an interchange of opinions between our distinguished visitor and the general company then present. But I was also influenced in allowing sentiments to pass with which I differed by recollecting that they were the sentiments of my seniors, and of men who cherished them with a strong but honourable jealousy. At the same time I beg to be allowed the liberty of assuring you, in this more private way, that there is to my certain knowledge a very large amount of opinion among Nonconformists and among Nonconformist ministers of which the general character of the remarks made to you on Tuesday is not a complete expression. I fully admit that the opponents of 'Establishments' would be found in a majority, doubtless in a very large majority, among Dissenters, if opinions could be collected and compared. But I entirely demur to the statement of Dr. Vaughan (certainly made from his sincere conviction), that the adversaries of all connection between 'Church' and 'State,' in the ranks of Nonconformists are, to the remnant, as fifty to one. I am the minister of a congregation in this suburb which is composed of men of various complexions of creed on this subject, and I have the means of knowing many congregations besides my own; and my firm belief is, that there is an influential section of Nonconformists with whom an Establishment is not the barrier in the way of conformity—that many Dissenters prefer some recognition of religion by the 'State' (quoad a State)—that a larger number, whilst discerning the evils of 'Establishments,' believe the mischief to be nearly as great in unwedged churches so that there is an almost even choice of defects, but that a larger number still are indifferent altogether on that part of the question.

"Why are they, then, Dissenters? They are Dissenters on the ground of the present state of subscription; and

my chief reason for troubling you with this note is to assure you of that fact; because if you carry away from our conference an opposite impression, it is plain that the weight of your immense authority on the side of Liturgical reform, or relaxation of subscription, will probably be withheld. If I recollect accurately, you expressed an opinion that no important section in the Church of England even entertained the idea of a separation between Church and State. If, therefore, you should be misled into the conclusion, that no relief would be valued by any considerable party among Dissenters short of the entire disendowment of religion, you would consider any action towards such relief wasted energy. Now, I submit that on a great question like this, statesmen should learn even the judgments of minorities, and I am one of those who agree with the dictum uttered, I think by Mr. Isaac Taylor, that 'half a dip of ink would reconcile hundreds of Nonconformists to the Established Church.'

"Without further trespassing on your time (although it would gratify me much to be able to proceed from assertion to demonstration), I beg permission to affirm, that multitudes of men who would be acquisitions to the strength of the Church of England remain outside her borders, because, like myself, they cannot strain their charity to the full extent of the service for the 'Burial of the Dead,' they cannot sanction, even in words, the *opus operatum* of the 'Baptismal Office'—they cannot claim co-ordinate authority with the Apostles in the 'Order for the Visitation of the Sick'—they cannot offend their notions of modern decorum and decency in the office for the 'Solemnisation of Matrimony'—and lastly (and pardon the egotism if I say that this last is the cardinal hindrance which bars my own admission to your venerable section of the one Church), they cannot consign to everlasting damnation, so far as their creed could do it, all the victims of a doubt, on the transcendentalism—the microscopic transcendentalism, I had almost said—of the Athanasian Creed. I am a firm believer in the doctrines intended to be avowed in that confession of faith; but I would rather starve in the cold shade of Nonconformity than declare, as a parish priest, several times in a year, that 'except a man believe,' as I believe on the subject of the Trinity, 'he shall without doubt perish everlastingly.'

"In fine, permit me to assure you that whilst, no doubt, the thousands of Dissenters are Dissenters chiefly through a love of liberty as well as of truth, there are hundreds of Dissenters besides those, who, though not mean enough to undervalue liberty, find their truest ideals of liberty in the farthest remove from a religious republic, men who remain Dissenters by a stern compulsion through a love of truth and charity, and men who would sacrifice speculative dogma on church government, and even surrender some personal freedom, to avoid the calamities of religious strife, could they only be delivered by a second reformation from burdens which neither they nor their fathers have been able to bear.—Sir, I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, your very faithful servant,

"HENRY CHRISTOPHERSON.

"The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P."

"11, Carlton-terrace.

"Dear Sir,—I have read your letter with very great interest, but I am doubtful whether it opens any wider ground of co-operation than the conversation of last Tuesday evening appeared to open.

"In 1689, when it was proposed to reform the Common Prayer-book by expunging some of its distinctive features, the scheme was abandoned, and I apprehend for no other reason than this, that it was found that the plan of comprehension to which very high authorities, including Archbishop Sancroft, were in principle more or less favourable, was so distasteful to a great part of the members of the Church, that either it could not be carried, or if carried it would effect many more than it would admit. This was, I think, if true, a just and conclusive objection. It is, I confess, my belief that the same result would follow now.

"It is probably true that a smaller proportion of the members of the Church of England are keenly attached, at this period, to what may be called roughly her distinctive features, than were so attached in 1689; but, on the other hand, there is much more alarm about extended changes, embracing other views and aims than yours. Nor is it to be denied that, among the members of the Church of England, there is a very prevalent sentiment of profound thankfulness for the Prayer-book as a whole, which indisposes them to consider critically what any of them might in the abstract take to be defects (and probably the defect in the eyes of one would be a virtue in the judgment of another), and which, combined with a conviction of the real difficulty of the business, very greatly deadens any wish in the direction of change.

"There is no doubt that the view you describe is practically in rather sharp antagonism with that stated by Dr. Vaughan. Let us consider the effects of the two, on the opposing power. Many a Churchman would deal liberally in questions of admission to equality of all civil, social, or educational privilege, who not only would resist attempts to alter the Church itself, with a view to comprehension, but would from fear of this latter object, become jealous of all concessions appertaining to the former. I do not speak of my own opinions or predilections in this matter, because I have no more the right of enjoyment of the national establishment of religion as such than any other subject of the Queen. And if it can be shown that a change would enlarge and strengthen the Church on the whole, I should admit at once the justice of that change, however unfavourably it might affect myself.

"But, the time is eminently unfavourable for grappling, on any footing, with the broader questions—and, as far as I may presume to have an opinion, the wisest plan for all parties is to be content with what may be at the moment practicable, not forfeiting any right nor renouncing any hope, but limiting the work of the moment to the capabilities of the moment, and striving to do small, perhaps, but solid good. If the good be real, it will always tend, in the end, to beget more good.

"Such remarks as these, so freely, and at the same time so roughly expressed, will require, I am confident, all your indulgence. Indeed, I can well conceive, that no amount of indulgence would suffice if they were to be tried by rigid and abstract rules. But my position has for many years been rather a peculiar one, placing me in contact with very extended varieties of opinion in affairs like these, and this, perhaps, is the origin to

which the tone and colour of my thoughts ought to be referred.

"I remain, rev. and dear sir, your very obedient and faithful,
"W. E. GLADSTONE.
"The Rev. H. Christopherson."

CHURCH-RATES IN THE PARISHES.

AYLESBURY.—WITHDRAWAL OF A CHURCH-RATE.—The people of Aylesbury have been in a state of considerable excitement during the last week on account of a threatened attempt to reintroduce the Church-rate system in the parish. It appears that these rates have not been levied for some years. The parish church, however, now needs very considerable repair, and 1,500*l.* will be required to put it in proper order. A meeting, presided over by Archdeacon Bickersteth, was held last week, and a suggestion was made that a Church-rate would be the best means of meeting the difficulty. An excited discussion at once arose, and ultimately it was resolved to call a vestry-meeting. This meeting was held on Friday, the archdeacon again taking the chair. There was a very large attendance of the parishioners. One of the churchwardens, Mr. Cooper, immediately moved that 500*l.* of the sum required be levied by means of a Church-rate. This was stoutly opposed, and the feeling of the meeting was clearly against any such course. The churchwarden was then requested by his brother churchwarden, Mr. Tindal, to withdraw the obnoxious resolution, a request which the archdeacon backed, saying that he was quite ready to fall in with those who were disposed to raise the required sum by voluntary contributions. The churchwarden then withdrew his resolution, saying he was "glad not to have a Church-rate to disturb the peace of the parish," and another Churchman, Mr. Watson, adding that "the worst thing that could happen to the interest of the Church in Aylesbury would be the imposition of a Church-rate." The meeting then separated in a friendly manner.

A DISPUTED RATE.—At the Wolverhampton county police-court, on Monday, Mr. John Cook, of Tottenhall, and twenty-five other ratepayers, were summoned for non-payment of Church-rates. Mr. Thurstans appeared for the churchwardens; Mr. Bennett, of Serjeants'-Inn, for the defendants. Evidence having been given as to the justness of the assessment, Mr. Bennett, for the defence, contended that the Church-rate was based upon the poor-rate assessment which was made twenty-nine years ago. The property had in many cases depreciated in value since that time, and in other instances had become more valuable. Some property that had been built during the past two or three years had not been assessed at all, whilst some other property had been valued, not by a professional valuer, but by the churchwardens. Under these circumstances, he contended that the defendants were not liable for payment, inasmuch as the rating was "unfair, unequal, and unjust." In support of his position, the learned gentleman cited several cases that had been heard in the Court of Arches, before Dr. Lushington. Mr. Thurstans replied, and the Bench, after deliberating for some time, made an order for payment in Mr. Cook's case. The other cases were adjourned for three weeks. It was understood that a writ of *certiorari* to the Queen's Bench would be applied for by the defendant.

A VOLUNTARY CHURCH-RATE.—In the parish of St. Lawrence, Ipswich, it has been resolved to make the weekly offertory do duty for Church-rates. The *Suffolk Chronicle* in reference to this decision says:—"We commend the above to the particular attention of the churchwardens of St. Mary Key. Churchmen themselves desert their parish church, so that the ordinary congregation might be got into an old-fashioned family pew; but, nevertheless, a few days ago members of the Society of Friends, rated in the parish, were dragged before the police-court as Church-rate defaulters, and ordered to pay the amount specified. Such a case is simply a scandal. In a rightly ordered state of things it would be impossible."

THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION.

The report of the select committee of the House of Commons "appointed to inquire into the constitution of the Committee of Council on Education and the system under which the business of the office is conducted, and also into the best mode of extending the benefits of Government inspection and the Parliamentary grants to schools at present unassisted by the State," has been published. The minutes of evidence are appended. The report, is as follows:—"Your committee have received much evidence upon the questions referred to them. With respect to the constitution of the Education Department, and the system under which the annual grants for the promotion of popular education are administered, they have examined present and former Presidents and Vice-Presidents, and the Secretary, of the Committee of Council, and several of her Majesty's inspectors. They have also taken evidence from various parts of England with respect to the policy of making a certificated teacher an indispensable condition of State assistance to a school, and with respect to the existing practice of the Education Department on the important subject of religious teaching and the adoption of the Conscience Clause. Your committee are obliged to state, with much regret, that, considering the period of the year, and the peculiar circumstances of the present session, they are unable to complete their inquiry; but they present the evidence already taken to the House, with a conviction that although, on some points imperfect, and as yet one-sided, it will be

found to be of great interest and value. The question raised in the second part of the order of reference, viz., 'how best to extend the benefits of Government inspection and the Parliamentary grant to schools at present unassisted by the State,' is one so wide, and of such extreme importance to the promotion of popular education, that your committee think it desirable that further inquiry should be made into branches of this portion of the subject, which they have hitherto touched only incidentally, or not at all. Under these circumstances, while your committee greatly regret their inability to complete the duty entrusted to them, they think it undesirable to present any partial report, and are of opinion that the inquiry ought to be resumed. They therefore recommend that, at the commencement of the next session of Parliament, a committee should be appointed to carry on, under the same order of reference, the inquiry which they now find themselves unable to conclude."

THE DISSENTING DEPUTIES.

The half-yearly meeting of the Deputies of the Three Denominations was held at Radley's Hotel, on Wednesday afternoon, under the presidency of Charles Reed, Esq., F.S.A., Deputy-Chairman.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the secretary, Mr. C. SHEPHERD.

The CHAIRMAN said they had been accustomed to see the chair occupied by Sir Morton Peto, who had desired him to inform the meeting that nothing but absence from England would have prevented his attending on the present occasion. After reviewing the ecclesiastical events of last session, expressing his hope that Dissenters would never agree to a compromise on the Church-rate question, and advertising to the personal gains of the late election, he urged the importance of attending to the registration. It was not on the hustings, nor in the canvass, but in the registration, that their strength chiefly lay. The matter was attended to in the metropolis, but it was much overlooked in the counties.

Mr. WILLIAM GOVER moved the following resolution:—

That this deputation approve the proceedings of the committee in opposing the Church-rates Commutation Bill, the Lahore Bishopprie Bill, and the Educational and Charitable Institutions Bill, during the late session; and congratulate them on the defeat of the first and the withdrawal of the other two bills. The deputation also approves of the action of the committee in favour of Mr. Haddfield's Bill for the abolishing of declarations as a qualification on taking office, and the Oxford Tests Abolition Bill, and the Roman Catholic Oaths Bill; and they tender to Mr. Haddfield their warmest thanks for his persevering efforts to get rid of those declarations, their congratulations on his return to Parliament at the late election, and their best wishes for the success of his bill in the next session.

Mr. JAMES CARTER seconded the resolution. He said he believed that they were in a position in which they could congratulate themselves on the result of the recent elections. As regarded Church-rates, it appeared to him that any compromise would be a throwing overboard of the essential principles of the argument against them. It would be treason to the whole question. Nonconformists would be stultified by compromise. It was true that a parish was not taxed for the support of the church if the rate was rejected by the ratepayers; but that was not the point. The existence of the power of making the rate was understood by all parties to be an exponent of the relation in which Dissenters were regarded as standing to Churchmen—that of social inferiority. A man was bound before God and in his own judgment on all ecclesiastical, moral, and religious questions, and if he submitted without opposition to disadvantages on account of his religious principles, he disgraced his own respectability. With regard to the introduction of Dissenters into Universities, no one who had imbibed the principles of a free Christianity would oppose that measure. It should be the endeavour of all Nonconformists to strengthen the hands of any member of Parliament who was willing to throw his energies into the abolition of those disabilities from which Dissenters suffered.

Mr. POTTER said that he agreed with the resolution except in one point. He could not approve of the action of the committee in promoting the Roman Catholic Oaths Bill. Roman Catholics avowedly gave allegiance to a sovereign other than that of England, and he thought it was a dangerous thing for Dissenters to enter into the compact for Catholic Emancipation. Roman Catholics were very willing to side with Dissenters to secure their own ends, but he believed they were really the greatest enemies Dissenters could have. With regard to Church-rates, he believed that those who could not get a majority against them in their parishes had only to be very obstinate and positively refuse to pay them. At least, that was his experience at Camberwell.

Mr. EBENEZER CLARKE said he disagreed with Mr. Potter's conclusions. He was of opinion that Roman Catholics ought not to be deprived of civil privileges because of their religious views. That was a thing to which Dissenters objected in their own case. With reference to the question of Mr. Mill's return, he (Mr. Clarke) knew several pious men who regarded the Sabbath as a Christian institution, but who, nevertheless, considered that Mr. Mill's views on that question should not be used as a reason of his rejection if his political principles were right. If they really wanted an honest man in the House of Commons, they must give him a great deal of liberty.

Mr. SCRUTTON moved—

That the thanks of this deputation are due to George Joachim Göschen, Esq., M.P., for his able advocacy of the principle of freedom of education at the National Universities. The deputies cherish the hope that he will persevere with his

bill next session, and pledge themselves to give him their earnest support.

He trusted when the time came, they would give Mr. Göschen that support which such a question required, and which they, as Dissenters, desired to render.

Mr. MULLENS cordially seconded the resolution. He somewhat sympathised with the sentiments of Mr. Potter on both the points on which he touched. He (Mr. Mullens) would remind Mr. Clarke that the Roman Catholic Oath Bill was not altogether a question of civil liberty. The meeting should bear in mind the distinction between civil liberty and that for which the Romanists were seeking. They were seeking ascendancy by every possible step, and if they could get the liberty of Protestant Dissenters to help them a step higher they would take advantage of it; but directly they got high enough they would tread them under foot.

Mr. POTTER suggested that with a view to increase the number of churches in union with the association an opportunity should be taken next time there was a petition to be signed of visiting those which were unconnected, and explaining the objects of the association.

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS moved—

That the result of the late elections affords a striking proof of the progress of the principle of civil and religious liberty in this country, and encourages the Deputies to persevere in their efforts for the abolition of Church-rates and the removal of ecclesiastical tests at the National Universities and the grammar-schools of the country.

He said that he had been struck with the fact that every candidate at the recent election had thought it necessary to allude in some way to ecclesiastical questions in the printed addresses, and the question of Church-rates had been the most prominent. Most of the Conservative candidates had expressed themselves in favour of compromise, and the Liberal party, with a few exceptions, had declared themselves in favour of total abolition. About eighty-seven members of the new Parliament were Nonconformists. Notwithstanding these facts, however, it was necessary that the Deputies should exercise great vigilance in watching the proceedings of the new Parliament, because there was an unusually large number of new members, some of whom, on account of the novelty of their position, and others because of the laxity of their views, were likely to fall, sooner or later, victims to the seductive arts of the Ministerial whipper-in. Some of them, too, had such crude notions on some of the questions in which the Deputies were interested, that they would require a little friendly instruction from time to time as the subjects came forward.

Mr. PATTISON seconded the resolution. He remarked that it was refreshing to observe the progress which their principles were making. Those principles, which were once laughed at as abstract, or sneered at as Utopian, were now treated as realities, and became the staple of election addresses. He believed that the abstract questions of one age would become the practical questions of another.

Mr. ROBERT WATSON moved a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Mr. JAMES CLARKE seconded the motion, and said that the thanks of the Deputies were due to the chairman, not only for presiding at that meeting, but also for the efforts which he was continually making to advance their cause.

The motion was cordially carried.

The CHAIRMAN briefly replied, and remarked that, though the meeting had been rather small, it had been of a decidedly practical and very instructive character.

THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.

The Wesleyan Conference continued its labours at Birmingham all last week. We copy from the *Leeds Mercury*, with some additions from other papers, a succinct report of the proceedings since our last number:—

On Tuesday night a service for the recognition of returned missionaries was held in Belmont-row Chapel. The President conducted the proceedings. After prayer by the Revs. D. J. Draper and John Thomas, the 67th Psalm was read. The President then referred to the occasion of their assembling.

The EX-PRESIDENT (Dr. Osborn) addressed the meeting. Amongst other things, he remarked that it would be all over with Christianity when it ceased to be missionary; there would be an end of it in such a case, as certain as there had been a beginning of it. Its principles were worth nothing, and never by any artifice could be made to be worth anything, any longer than they extended themselves, and provided for their own extension and perpetuation. To the missionary work they, therefore, instinctively turned as the indispensable means of preserving Christianity among them in its purity and vigour, as well as extending it among the nations beyond. The constant influx and reflux of men who had served the cause of Christ abroad, and then returned to serve it at home, distinguished in a manner not to be mistaken, and not to be counterfeited, the Methodist ministry from every other body of ministers with which he was acquainted, either in this country or any other. They were their glory and their joy, because they identified the whole work of Methodism with the whole world—the appointed and legitimate field of operations.

The Rev. JOHN KILNER was the first to address the meeting, after which the Rev. T. B. BUTCHER spoke. The next speaker was the Rev. W. O. SIMPSON, from India, and at present of Leeds. He was followed by the Revs. G. SHARP, from Western Africa; J. J. BANKS, from India; and J. C. BARRETT, from the West Indies.

The PRESIDENT then desired all the missionaries before him to stand up, and then all the ministers in full connection to stand up, and in their presence he formally welcomed the returned missionaries on behalf

of the Conference, and invoked upon them the Divine blessing.

The ordination service was held in Wesley Chapel, and the admission was by a limited number of tickets. The chapel was crowded in every corner. At half-past nine o'clock the President commenced the service by giving out a hymn. After prayer by Dr. Hannah, the secretary of the Conference (Rev. J. Farrar) introduced the ministers to be ordained by name. The President then read the usual form of service, after which the candidates knelt at the communion rails for ordination. The ministers who took part in the imposition of hands were the President, ex-President, Dr. Hannah, Bishop James, J. Farrar, W. Naylor, F. A. West, H. Price, J. Lomas, J. Hall, W. W. Stamp, J. Rattenbury, C. Prest, D. Waddy, P. McOwan, J. Geden, and E. Walker. At the words, "Take thou authority," &c., a Bible was presented to each candidate; also a copy of the "large minutes," with the inscription in it, "As long as you freely consent to, and earnestly endeavour to keep these rules, we shall rejoice to acknowledge you as a fellow labourer."—Signed, W. Shaw, President; J. Farrar, Secretary. At the termination of this part of the service the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered by the President, ex-President, and Secretary, to the newly-ordained ministers, after which the ex-President (Dr. Osborn) ascended the pulpit, and, having given out another hymn and engaged in prayer, proceeded to deliver "the charge." It was based upon 1 Timothy iii., 1 to 17. The charge occupied about forty minutes in the delivery.

After singing another hymn, the Doctor offered up an earnest prayer for the newly ordained ministers. The benediction was then pronounced by the President, and the large assembly dispersed.

On Wednesday evening a considerable number of ministers assembled, by private invitation, at the house of Mr. C. Sturge, to meet Mr. Samuel Bowly, President of the National Temperance League; Mr. William Tweedie, of London; and Mr. T. B. Smithies, editor of the *British Workman*, who were to "lay some statements on the social and religious aspects and bearing of the temperance reformation before the ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference." About 300 ministers accepted the invitation, and a frank interchange of opinion upon the questions submitted took place. A meeting in connection with the "Birmingham and Midland Freedmen's Aid Society" was held afterwards in the Town-hall.

On Thursday committees were appointed to consider the report on Sunday-schools, by the Rev. John Clulow, who during last year has been set apart for their examination, and to consider the appointment of a head master for the new Kingswood School.

The Conference then proceeded to finish the consideration of the applications for additional men. The report of the Book-room was brought in, recommending that for the next year there should only be one editor of the periodicals. After a little conversation the recommendation was adopted, so that the Rev. B. Frankland, B.A., is now sole editor.

A junior minister was granted to the Rev. W. M. Punshon as his assistant. The Rev. J. H. James hoped that the Conference would lay a solemn embargo on Mr. Punshon, enjoining him to use his minister, so as to relieve himself from that excessive pressure of work, which he feared, if continued, would prematurely deprive the Connexion of his services. Mr. Punshon said he should do so, and that he must abstain from extra-parochial services for some time.

The first business on Friday was to receive a memorial from the Sunday Closing Association. It expressed a hope that Wesleyan congregations would be encouraged to petition Parliament in support of the objects of the association. Dr. Osborn thought that the object of closing public-houses on Sundays would be accomplished only by the gradual growth of sound sentiment in the public mind, and not by any convulsive action of the kind suggested. It was understood that the Conference did not commit itself as a body to any public action, but that the people be encouraged to join in any local efforts for the attainment of these objects.

The report of the committee appointed to inquire into the case which was before the bench of magistrates at Exeter a few weeks ago, was also presented. After careful consideration, the result arrived at was that the connection subsisting between the accused and the Conference should be terminated.

The report of the special committee, appointed last Conference, to inquire into the constitution of the chapel committee, and the propriety of appointing a second clerical secretary, was next read. It recommended to the Conference the appointment of a second secretary, who should be a minister, and the adoption of the revised compendium of rules. The adoption of the report was moved by the Rev. J. FARRAR, and seconded by Dr. HANNAH. A long and animated discussion ensued, which showed that the sitting of the committee had done nothing to remove the differences of opinion brought out in the debate at the last Conference. The report of the committee had been carried by a bare majority, and those who had been in the minority there were indisposed to allow the report to be adopted by Conference without opposition. Dr. WADDY said that no fresh light had been thrown upon the subject, and that he retained the objections to the appointment of a clerical secretary which he had urged last year, and with which he had entered the committee. He quite believed that Mr. Bedford needed help, but it ought to be sought elsewhere than in the ranks of the ministry. Laymen might be found who, for a liberal salary, would do the work which would need to be done by the new secretary. Mr. SCOTT gave expression to similar views. Dr. OSBORN said that although beaten in committee he had not been convinced that the views he expressed last Conference were wrong. Mr. VASEY objected very strongly to the resolution. He feared that if it were adopted all future supervision of chapel affairs, and all opportunities of altering the methods of the chapel committee, would be taken out of the power of Conference. He moved as an amendment that the question be recommitted to a committee to be appointed by Conference, and to report to Conference. This was seconded by the Rev. S. R. HALL, who objected to the resolution as having a tendency to secularise the ministry. All work that could be done by laymen ought to be done by them. The Rev. C. PREST supported the amendment, which was opposed by Dr. RIGG. He argued at some length against it, and contended that the principle laid down in this matter had already been acted upon in missions, book affairs, and education affairs. The Rev. J. V. SHREWSBURY

supported the resolution. Several other speakers spoke, some in favour of the original motion, and some in favour of the amendment. The amendment was at last put, and carried by a considerable majority. This was perhaps the most considerable and able discussion which the present Conference has witnessed, and will be attended no doubt with some very important consequences, some of which have already begun to exhibit themselves.

After the appointment of a small committee to draw up the list of home missionary deputations, the Conference adjourned shortly after two o'clock, to enable the stationing committee to meet.

On Saturday, a letter of respectful sympathy was directed to be written to the Rev. Thomas Jackson, who, in consequence of failing strength, is unable to attend the Conference. The report of the Rev. John Clulow (who was appointed last Conference to visit the Sunday-schools in the Connexion) was also read. It occupied an hour in the reading. Dr. WADDY moved, and the Rev. J. H. JAMES seconded the resolution, that "the Conference, deeply impressed with the importance of the inquiries which Mr. Clulow has conducted, is anxious that he should continue them, under the direction of the Education Committee, and hopes that that committee may be prepared, after a careful consideration of all the facts brought before them, to propose some suggestions for the improvement of our Sunday-schools to the next Conference." Carried unanimously. The Conference also considered at some length a resolution proposing that more care should be taken of baptized children. The Rev. JOSHUA MASON proposed the appointment of a small committee to inquire into the question, and to report to the next Conference. After a discussion, in which Dr. Waddy, Dr. Rigg, W. Arthur, and others took part, the Rev. S. R. HALL moved that the Conference proceed to the order of the day, which was carried by a small majority.

On Monday morning the committee on chapel affairs was appointed, after which the second draft of stations was read. The Rev. J. W. GREEVES read the report of the number of members, from which the following facts are gathered:—There are 19,091 on trial, 18,793 new members have been received during the year; there have been 5,557 deaths; 330,827 members in Great Britain; 283 circuits have an increase, and 284 a decrease. The district having the largest increase this year in London (724); that having the largest increase in the last two years is the Manchester and Bolton (1,317), and that having the largest decrease is the Macclesfield district, where there has been a decrease of 935 in the two years. The statistics from the mission districts, not including those under the care of the affiliated conferences, the total in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the West Indian Islands, was 62,545, being a decrease of 2,832. The increase at home is 1,174.

UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCHES.

The Conference at Nottingham have been discussing a new reference deed to secure to the Connexion the chapels and other property. All the clauses were read and adopted. Mr. C. Cheetham was chosen connexional treasurer; the Rev. T. Newton, corresponding secretary; and the Rev. S. S. Barton, missionary secretary. Resolutions were adopted in favour of holding an annual missionary meeting in Exeter Hall, as well as an annual conference on the subject. The financial report of the Connexional Missionary Society was read by Rev. S. S. Barton. The total amount was 6,665*l.*, and the expenses 6,035*l.*, leaving a balance of about 630*l.* The chapel fund report stated that the total income was about 150*l.*, which was voted to various circuits that had applied for grants in aid of chapels. The Sunday-school and various other reports were read. A memorial from the Sunday Closing Association was read, and the Secretary moved the following resolution:—

That this assembly entertains a strong opinion that deep and manifold evils result from the opening of public-houses on the Lord's-day, and therefore heartily sympathises with the objects of the National Sunday-Closing Association, and recommends to all our ministers and churches that they give such association their co-operation and support.

He said he would move the adoption of the memorial on the broad grounds of moral, social, and physical improvement. He did not believe in legislation on religious subjects, but on these he did, and he hoped the time was not far distant when the object of this association would be realised. He hoped all their ministers and friends would use their influence to assist in obtaining it. Others spoke in a similar strain.

Reports were read and adopted from the committees of the Local Preachers' and Sunday-school Funds, and the thanks of the assembly were given to the committee and officers for their services during the year. It was unanimously resolved, on the motion of the Rev. S. S. Barton, to increase the salaries of the home missionaries by the addition of 5*l.* per annum. The Missionary Secretary stated that, in consequence of the want of punctuality on the part of some of the circuits in paying their accounts, he had not been able to complete his report, but he believed there would be an increase of 500*l.* for the year. It was then reported that the Connexional Committee had recommended that the number of young men to be received on probation for the ministry be limited to twenty. Mr. Mawson moved as an amendment that the number should be thirty. This was spoken to by several of the representatives, and the assembly determined on twenty, and the names were read and the list adopted for election. Mr. J. Chipchase then moved a series of resolutions on the subject of the Preachers' Children's Fund, which were seconded by Captain King, but, after considerable discussion, they were withdrawn, and an amendment proposed by Mr. J. Myers, was adopted, as follows:—

That the Connexional Committee be instructed to consider the question of the Preachers' Children's Fund for the purpose of ascertaining whether any arrangements can be made to give allowances to some of the children of our preachers, who are not, by present arrangements, entitled to such allowances, and report to the next annual assembly.

The tabular report as to members was presented by

Rev. J. Guttridge. The total numbers were as follows:—Members, 65,689, on trial, 6,132; preachers, 269; local preachers, 3,161; leaders, 4,061; chapels, &c., 1,533; Sunday-school teachers, 21,404; Sunday-scholars, 146,178. The total increase of members was 1,358. In 87 circuits there was an increase of 2,269; in 61 circuits there was a decrease of 1,834. The assembly was cordially invited to hold its sittings next year at Sheffield. The increase was reported as above 1,358. This was looked upon as very unsatisfactory, considering the vast amount of labour expended, and taking into consideration the various amalgamations which have taken place. Remarks were made and suggestions offered by Revs. J. Guttridge, A. Gilbert, W. Griffith, Messrs. Ashworth, Cuthbertson, &c. The churches and ministers were urged to seek a higher Christian life—to seek the salvation of others by direct preaching of salvation by Jesus Christ, and by earnest invitations to others to attend the house of prayer, and to pay greater attention to the class meeting and other special means. Resolutions were adopted expressing the gratitude of the assembly for the measure of outpouring of the Holy Spirit realised by some of the churches, but expressing also the desire of the assembly that in future there may be much larger increase of blessing. The most cordial thanks of the assembly were voted to the friends at Nottingham and the neighbourhood, for the exceeding kindness with which all the representatives had been treated during the time of the sittings of the annual assembly. The stations of ministers were read for the third time, and, with a few alterations, passed. Resolutions of congratulation upon the close of the American war and the abolition of American slavery, and of condolence with Mrs. Lincoln on account of the assassination of the President, were passed. Resolutions upon the temperance question were presented, deploring the evils resulting from the liquor traffic, and urging all the ministers to use their influence in the abatement of these evils, and the inculcation of temperance principles in their churches. The list of circuits entitled to send representatives to the next assembly was read and passed. The Rev. M. Miller gave a short account of his tour in America, with the Connexional treasurer, C. Cheetham, Esq., of Heywood, and the assembly was gratified to hear that these two gentlemen had the honour of an introduction to the Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which was sitting.

The assembly was on Monday declared formally dissolved.

THE BIBLE CHRISTIANS.

The Bible Christians have been celebrating their jubilee by a conference of the ministers and representatives of the body at Providence Chapel, Exeter. The founder of the body was Mr. William O'Bryan, a Wesleyan local preacher in Cornwall, who in 1815—now fifty years ago—separated from the Wesleyans, and began himself to form societies on the Methodist plan. In a very few years considerable advance was made, and throughout Devonshire and Cornwall many societies were established; so that in 1819 there were nearly thirty itinerant preachers. Mr. O'Bryan withdrew from the body in 1829. In their doctrines there is no distinction between the Bible Christians and other bodies of Arminian Methodists. Fifty years ago the class formed at Shebbear numbered twenty-two persons, whereas the returns of this year show that there are in church-fellowship 25,832. There are 743 places of worship, providing accommodation for nearly 150,000 persons. In the Sabbath-schools belonging to the society 40,000 children were under instruction, the teachers exceeding 8,000. The superannuated itinerant ministers numbered 227, and the local preachers 1,672. In the building of chapels 160,000*l.* had been expended (one-half of which had been already raised), and for home and colonial missions 70,000*l.* had been raised—the total of the two departments reaching 230,000*l.*—close upon a quarter of a million. The amount raised in the past year for the support of the ministry at home was 3,700*l.*, and for foreign missions the same sum—total, 7,400*l.* When the home mission commenced—1820—there were two missionaries (in Kent), and the foreign missions were started in 1831 with only two missionaries—in Canada and Prince Edward's Island. There were at present 771 regular ministers labouring, being assisted by 372 local preachers—the places of worship numbering 232. There were 4,585 members in church-fellowship; 1,067 Sabbath-school teachers; and 7,311 scholars. Under the care of the Canadian Conference there were fifty-four itinerant ministers, 225 local preachers, 264 places of worship, 5,021 members in church-fellowship, 357 teachers, and 5,509 children in the school. The Australian missions embraced twenty-four itinerant preachers, 130 local preachers, 113 places of worship, 1,667 members in church-fellowship, 713 Sabbath-school teachers, and 4,281 scholars—the total in the missionary department being 149 missionaries, 727 local preachers, 378 chapels, 231 other places of worship (total 609), 11,273 members in church-fellowship, 2,717 Sabbath-school teachers, and 17,101 scholars.

A jubilee-meeting was held on Wednesday, when Mr. C. Hobbs, of London, occupied the chair. Mr. J. Thorne, President of the Conference, gave a clear and interesting statement of the rise, progress, and present position of the Connexion. Several other brethren addressed the meeting. The various sums raised towards the Jubilee Fund in cash and in substantial promises, to be paid within a limited period, amount to 1,490*l.*

The next Conference is to be held in Stamford-street Chapel, Landport, Portsmouth, the last Wednesday in July, 1866.

ENGLISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH-BUILDING SOCIETY.

The twelfth anniversary of this society was held on Wednesday night in East-parade Chapel, Leeds, Mr. J. Crossley, of Halifax, in the chair. The Rev. J. C. GAL LAWAY, M.A., read an abstract of the report of the committee. It gave a brief history of the movement for the establishing of free churches which had called the society into existence, and through the operation of which there were now tens, hundreds, and thousands of chapels where, 200 years ago, there was not one. This multiplication of large and attractive edifices for the advocacy of the truth and for public worship furnished, the committee believed, the most effective evidence to the English mind that true religion was safest in the keeping of its real friends, and was fully competent to provide all the material and ministerial instrumentality needful, without asking for State assistance. The committee thought the question as to the formation into one organisation of the London, Lancashire, and English societies, for the building of free churches, worthy of the consideration of all friends of the cause. These three societies had been instrumental in the erection of more than 300 churches, of which 237 had been added by the English Society. The total receipts of the latter for the year, including the balance, was 9,618*l.*, being the largest amount yet recorded. The chapels adopted during the year numbered eighteen, making, since the commencement, a total of 237, which furnished accommodation for nearly 120,000 persons, and costing, inclusive of sites, 365,000*l.* The total pecuniary assistance voted by the society in aid of this object was 62,000*l.*, of which 47,000*l.* had been paid, leaving 15,000*l.* to be paid, towards which the committee had in hand nearly 3,000*l.* to be advanced when the time specified should arrive, and the requisite conditions on which the advances were made were complied with. Of this sum it was calculated that 3,000*l.* would be wanted soon, 5,400*l.* at next anniversary, 5,000*l.* at the succeeding one, and the balance soon after. Towards this entire liability the resources of the society, including balances and contributions promised, were estimated at 28,000*l.*, leaving a surplus of assets of 12,000*l.* But as a large portion of the outstanding liability would become due before the assets were available, the committee looked with some measure of anxiety upon the present position of financial matters, more especially as the general or grant fund was overdrawn. They had agreed to excite wide interest in the subject, to hold conferences in different provincial towns, and to seek the assistance of some brother who would devote himself entirely to the work. On account of the loan fund the amount now received and conditionally promised was 27,000*l.*, while the amount aimed at was 50,000*l.* The total receipts from collections were only 1,669*l.*, whereas if all congregations had duly responded to this obligation the society would probably receive from that source 500*l.* per annum. The CHAIRMAN, who was received with applause, said that the meeting of that evening strikingly illustrated the flight of time. It scarcely seemed that twelve years had elapsed since they first met at Derby for the purpose of bringing the society into existence. During the interval they had not been idle, as they would have learned from the report. They had not received the support that the society was entitled to, but yet he thought that the means which had been placed at their disposal made out a very strong case for additional support. Of the work which they had planned out for themselves then a great deal had yet to be done. They were informed by the report that during these twelve years they had given assistance in no fewer than 237 cases, all of which, indeed, had not been grants, many of them being loans of money. In the early stage of the society, however, they were entirely grants, for they had not then got hold of the latter idea. The plan of lending money he could assure all friends of the society had proved one of the most satisfactory methods of meeting the great number of cases that came under their observation, for many of the congregations that applied to them for assistance did not desire that money should be given them; but only that they should by timely aid be relieved from pressing necessity. That aid was granted to them in the form of a loan of money, to be repaid without interest, in some cases in five, in others in ten years. They were extremely anxious that this fund should be raised to 50,000*l.*, and he trusted that it would shortly be augmented in order that they might satisfactorily meet the claims of a great number of cases which were still pressing on their attention without any prospect of being immediately met. He believed that at this moment they had before them no fewer than sixty such cases, only a few of which could be attended to, as the committee were determined not to exceed the means at their disposal, and thereby involve the society in debt. All the engagements they had yet made he believed they had been able to meet, and they were resolved to continue in the position of being able to do so for the future. The chairman concluded by again urging the claims of the society upon the friends present.—On the motion of the Rev. Dr. CAMPELL, of Bradford, seconded by Mr. ISAAC PERRY, the report was adopted.—The Rev. W. ROBERTS moved, and the Rev. E. R. CONDER, M.A., seconded, and the Rev. J. K. WILLIAMS, of London, supported, a resolution, which was carried, approving of the system of lending money without interest, expressing satisfaction at the fact that the fund was increasing, and commending it to the churches with the hope that it would soon reach the proposed sum of 50,000*l.* A third resolution was carried on the motion of the Rev. R. MCALL,

seconded by Mr. JOHN WADE, approving of the labours of the committee during the year, and appointing gentlemen to act in that capacity for the next. The audited balance-sheet was read by Mr. CHARLES EDWARD CONDER, of London, and gave the following results:—On the debit side—balance at last audit, English fund, 455*l.* 11*s.*, Irish do. 1,003*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, together 1,459*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* Receipts—English fund 8,139*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, Irish do. 70*l.*, together 8,159*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*; total, 9,618*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* On the credit side—payments, English fund, 6,653*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, Irish do. 162*l.* 10*s.*, together 6,815*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*; balance—English fund 1,941*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*, Irish do. 861*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, together 2,802*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*; total 9,618*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* The society also hold promissory notes as security for money advanced in aid of various chapels to the amount of 5,462*l.* 10*s.* The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

DR. LIVINGSTONE ON AFRICAN MISSIONS.

The evidence of Dr. Livingstone before the Select Committee on Western Africa, which has just been published, is, as might be expected, entirely contrary to that of Captain Burton as to the results of missions. The subject is of so much interest that we give the questions put to Dr. Livingstone and his answers, as they appear in the Blue Book, without omission or alteration. The Doctor was asked whether he thought it was possible that an English Government could be established in the neighbourhood of twenty or thirty different tribes, and not interfere in their quarrels? His reply was, "I think so. The missionaries whom I have known generally make it clearly understood that they will not interfere in the protection of the country; they are looked upon as part of the superior power, and they are not appealed to."

In the case of Lagos and Abbeokuta, have the missionaries practically kept out of the native quarrels?—I am not acquainted with Lagos.

What is your opinion generally of the character and influence of the missionaries in Africa?—I entertain a very high opinion of them.

Do you allude to any particular part of Africa?—I know them better in the interior of the South and in Sierra Leone.

Taking Sierra Leone, what should you say has been the influence of the missionaries there?—I think that it has been very beneficial, both to the natives and to the English.

What has it done for the natives?—In the first place, the missionaries always promote trade. Some of them think they ought not to attempt the civilisation of the people, and others think that they ought; but wherever I have seen a mission established, that mission promotes civilisation and commerce, whether the missionary professes to be anxious to promote civilisation or not.

Mr. Baxter: You mean promoting civilisation by teaching industrial employment?—Yes.

The Chairman: The Committee have heard of two systems of missionary work in Africa; one which adopts education and preaching as its means of action, and one which seems to have been carried on to a great extent on the Gold Coast by the Swiss missionaries, and into which agricultural and industrial training largely enter. To which system do you chiefly allude?—One body of missionaries advocate industrial pursuits chiefly, but they never confine themselves to those. The other profess to be anxious only to preach the Gospel, but their influence is directed also to promote the civilisation of the people.

Even though it is not connected with any industrial pursuits?—Even though it is not connected with any industrial pursuits. One way in which they do that is by their example; they show an example of industry, and in that way promote civilisation without professing to be industrial missionaries.

Do you believe that the missionaries have ever such a command of the local languages as to be able to preach intelligibly to the natives?—I know many who speak the language thoroughly; far better than any of the natives who have been born in the mission. Mr. Moffatt has been out there for fifty years, and he knows it thoroughly; he has translated all the Bible into their language; he knows it better than any native born on the station.

Mr. Chichester Fortescue: Which of the native languages are you alluding to.—The Sishuana.

The Chairman: The Committee have heard great doubts expressed with regard to the influence of the missionaries in Sierra Leone upon the native character, and we have heard evidence that the natives educated in the mission schools are generally disliked; can you account for that prejudice or that opinion in any way?—It is very common to hear aspersions cast on the character of the missionaries; but I account for it in this way: the lives of those men generally are a protest against the evil conduct of many of the men who go out to trade there. I do not wish to say that there are not good men among the traders, but a very large proportion of them are worthless, and the lives of those missionaries are a sort of standing protest against the moral conduct of the traders. Mr. Moffatt has been labouring with great success in one tribe for forty-three years, and he is exceedingly annoyed by several of the traders who have settled on the spot, and who have attempted to nullify all his teaching, corrupting the natives by their conduct.

Is the character of the missionaries themselves high and unexceptionable?—You find a few among them who are not men of great ability; some of them have been guilty of improper conduct; but take them as a whole, I think they deserve a very high character.

Should you say that their character is improving, and that the class of men sent out as missionaries is higher than it used to be?—When the missionaries were sent out fifty years ago it was believed by many men that any sort of man who could read his Bible and make a wheelbarrow was sufficient; but it was found that that was a mistake, and better-educated men are now chosen, and the more care is taken in their selection the more satisfactory are the results.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN PRISONS.

The discussions on the Prison Ministers Bill give some interest to the reports of the inspectors of prisons on the subject of religious instruction within the walls of the borough and county gaols. From the reports of the inspectors for the northern district, just issued, we take the following extracts:—

The report from Chester county gaol states:—"The chaplain performs the usual daily and weekly services, and assembles the prisoners three times a week for religious instruction; examines and admonishes prisoners on admission and discharge; visits the sick daily; superintends the schools and the distribution of books to the prisoners. The schoolmaster and schoolmistress give instruction to the prisoners daily, both in class and in their cells. Prisoners who do not belong to the Established Church have ample opportunities of seeing a minister of their own denomination." At the Chester city gaol there is no schoolmaster; and the chaplain observes:—"Not much has been done in the school for the last twelve months, owing to the large number of prisoners requiring the entire attention of all the officers." There is a sufficient supply of books. The Roman Catholic priest attends occasionally to visit prisoners of that denomination. At Carlisle the number of Roman Catholic prisoners is small; they are visited by a minister of their own denomination when they desire it. Other prisoners of a religious persuasion differing from the Established Church receive instruction from the chaplain and schoolmaster. At Derby a Roman Catholic minister visits the prison weekly, and sees all prisoners of his denomination who desire to see him. At Kirkdale a room has been fitted up for the use of the Roman Catholic Church, and a chaplain has been appointed to give religious instruction to the prisoners of that denomination. At Lancaster Castle a Roman Catholic minister visits prisoners of that persuasion who desire it. Prisoners of other denominations attend the prison chapel. At the Liverpool borough gaol there is a Roman Catholic chaplain, an extract from whose report is given. He says:—"The system adopted here in conformity with the Prison Ministers Act has worked admirably, and given general satisfaction. For this I have to express my gratitude to the governor and chaplain, who arranged the details to carry out the spirit of the Act, and who have in their daily intercourse shown towards me the greatest kindness and courtesy. I feel deeply interested in the work in which I am engaged, and so far the results of my labours have afforded me much consolation." The number of commitments for the year show that 3,083 Roman Catholic females were committed, against 1,812 Protestants, thus giving a majority of 1,271. Liverpool affords few openings for female labour in proportion to its population, so that the destitute and friendless girl is easily allured into the path of crime. A large seaport like this not only attracts, but it becomes the general refuge of the vicious and fallen. The number of Catholic prostitutes is so great, and the means of helping those who wish to abandon the streets so limited, that I give the numbers in full. From the figures given by the rev. gentleman it appears that in the months from January to September 605 Protestants and 921 Romanists of the class in question were committed. Of the 921 under his charge, the Roman Catholic chaplain says:—"Many—I may say most—of them have been committed several times since January. I have frequently found women of this class who have been in gaol thirty, forty, fifty, and even sixty times, yet they were not more than twenty-six or twenty-seven years of age." At Manchester, "prisoners who do not belong to the Established Church are visited by a minister of their own denomination when they desire it." At Preston, "a Roman Catholic minister has lately been appointed; all other denominations," says the inspector, "accept the ministrations of the Church of England chaplain." At the Salford New Bailey there is a Church of England chaplain, and "prisoners who do not belong to the Established Church see a minister of their own persuasion when they wish to do so." From Lincoln county gaol the report is that "no special provision is made for the instruction of prisoners who do not belong to the Established Church; but those prisoners who desire it are allowed to see a minister of their own persuasion." At the city gaol of Lincoln it is reported that prisoners who are not members of the Established Church seldom avail themselves of the permission to see a minister of their own denomination. At the Nottingham borough gaol there is no special provision for prisoners not of the Established Church, but "they willingly attend the services in chapel, and receive instruction from the chaplain, although they are aware that they may see a minister of their own denomination if they wish it." In the county gaol of Staffordshire the Roman Catholic priest visits prisoners of that denomination, and performs service in the school-room on Friday. Other prisoners may also see a minister of their own religious persuasion when they desire it. A Roman Catholic minister has been appointed for the county gaol of Wakefield, to attend prisoners of that denomination, and the chapel in the old prison has been fitted up for their religious services. The reports from the Scotch prisons nearly all state that prisoners not members of the Established Church are allowed to see their own ministers if they wish it. No special provision appears in any case to be made for their instruction.

We (*Guardian*) are informed, on good authority, that the Rev. Arthur Wagner has been, and still is, supporting out of his own purse the families of the men who were sent to prison for their brutal attack on him in the streets of Brighton.

A PANIC IN CHURCH.—On Sunday evening week, the congregation of Holy Saviour's, Tynemouth, was thrown into the greatest alarm. The Rev. Mr. Featherstone was discoursing, when a loud report was heard in the gallery immediately under the steeple. The rev. gentleman paused, and the majority of the congregation stood up and turned round, thinking that some great calamity had overtaken the edifice. It turned out that the organ bellows blower, who was perched upon a high form, had been overtaken by a deep sleep, which was only broken by his toppling over and falling upon the gallery floor. It having been ascertained that nothing more serious had occurred, the sermon was proceeded with.

THE BISHOP OF WINCHESTER ON INCENSE.—Some statements have been made in the Church

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papers relating to the use of incense at Christ Church, Clapham, which convey a wrong impression as to the course which the Bishop of Winchester thought it his duty to take with regard to the Rev. Bradley Abbot, the incumbent. Amongst other things it was stated that the bishop had distinctly authorised the use of incense on high festivals. His lordship has addressed a letter to the *John Bull*, in which he points out that this is a mistake, and adds—"I strongly and repeatedly urged the incumbent to give up altogether the use of incense, as being a practice of the most objectionable character, and bringing great scandal on the Church. I failed, however, in obtaining from him a greater concession on this point than a promise to confine the use of it to five festivals in the year."

ALTERATION OF CANON XXIX.—The official correspondence relating to the alteration of the 29th canon has been published as a Parliamentary paper. It shows that the Crown gave leave to Convocation to alter the canon, it being understood that the object was to repeal so much of it as prevents parents from being godfathers or godmothers to their own children. But when the new canon was forwarded to the Secretary of State, it was observed that a further alteration besides this was made. The canon had provided that no person shall be godfather or godmother at baptism or confirmation "except such person hath received the communion"; Convocation substituted the words—"except such person shall be capable of receiving the communion." To this change the Secretary of State objected that it might lead to sponsors being rejected for not having been confirmed or for some other alleged incapacity, although qualified under the existing canon, inasmuch as they have in fact received the communion. Convocation has now restored the original words, and submitted the new canon in that state for her Majesty's approval.

CANTERBURY CONVOCATION.—The elections of proctors for the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury, so far as they have gone, seem to show that the composition of the Lower House of the new Convocation will differ very little from that of its predecessor. There have been one or two retirements, but the vacant places have been filled by gentlemen of the same religious and political opinions as their predecessors. In one or two cases there have been attempts to return proctors who will support the views of Dean Stanley and Canon Blakeley, but they have not been very successful, and these gentlemen will not receive more material support than they did in the last Convocation. As far as the returns have been received, there are no alterations in the representatives of Cathedral chapters. There was a rather strong scene last week at a meeting of the clergy of London to elect two proctors. It seems that the Archdeacon of London nominates, at the instance of the clergy, two proctors, and the Archdeacon of Middlesex also nominates two. The bishop then chooses from these four two who shall sit in Convocation. He may choose one from each of the two nominations, or he may take both from one side. Some of the clergy expressed great dissatisfaction at this arrangement, which, it seems, has lasted hundreds of years, as virtually setting them aside. It is said that a meeting will be called to protest against it.

THE CASE OF TURKISH PROTESTANTS.—We deeply regret to learn that the persecution of the Protestants still continues in Turkey. The letter of our Constantinople correspondent contains several affecting instances of the grievous hardships with which a profession of the Gospel is accompanied in that country, and it is the more painful to reflect that in every case the persecution is set on foot by other Christian sects—the Roman Catholics or the Armenians—and that the Turks are but the blind agents of their will. In another matter there is ground for congratulation. It will, perhaps, be remembered that Stepan Effendi, the civil representative of the Protestant community, had been, there was reason to believe, bought over by the other communities to betray, or at least to neglect, the interests of his constituents; and a scheme was set on foot to raise a sum of money to induce him to resign his appointment. The money was raised; and the wily Effendi endeavoured to get it into his hands without resigning; and, failing in this object, he sued the holder of the sum, a native Protestant, for what he called the debt, and had influence enough with the Turkish authorities to have him cast into prison. Through the influence of Mr. Stuart, our Chargé d'Affaires, he was released; and matters remained in this state till the return of Sir Henry Balwer to his post, when, calculating on his connivance, Stepan renewed his suit against the holder of the money. He was disappointed, however. Sir Henry took the same view of the matter as Mr. Stuart; the prosecution failed; and there is now a good prospect of the removal of Stepan from the post he so unworthily holds.—*Evangelical Christendom.*

QUEEN EMMA AND THE RITUALISTS.—We regret to note that the ultra-ritualists are doing their utmost to disfigure our Church in the eyes of the Sandwich Islands Queen Dowager, now sojourning among us. On Sunday her native chaplain preached at Christ Church, Clapham, and advantage was taken of the occasion for a Tractarian display. Prior to the commencement of the service, a young man habited in a short surplice emerged from the vestry-room, having in his hand a long taper, with which he lighted two or more large candles on the high altar, to which he reverently bowed. In a minute or two afterwards the incumbent (the Rev. Bradley Abbot), with two or three clergymen and a band of choristers, entered, and the morning service was gone through. This portion of the service closed at ten minutes to

twelve (the Litany having been omitted), and then the church bells were rung. About twenty minutes elapsed, and the Communion Service commenced. A procession having been formed in the vestry-room, it moved along the south aisle of the church. It consisted, first, of an acolyte, who carried a stupendous brass cross, the weight of which he seemed able with difficulty to bear, raised high above the heads of the congregation. Then followed three or four clergymen, who wore green and white satin stoles, instead of the black stole usually worn by the clergy in their public ministrations. These were followed by the choristers, and lastly came Mr. Bradley Abbot, who was habited in what are called the Eucharistic vestments, precisely similar in every respect to those worn by a Roman Catholic priest at the celebration of the mass. In this singular attire the celebrant moved with the procession to the altar, and, ascending to the highest step, proceeded with the service. The processional hymn was 136 from "Hymns Ancient and Modern." After the sermon, by the Rev. W. Hoapiti, the Holy Communion was administered by Mr. Abbot, habited in his rich and glaring Eucharistic vestments, her Majesty being one of the partakers.—*Record.*

THE BISHOP OF LONDON AND HIS RURAL DEANS.—Yesterday se'night the Bishop of London had his usual meeting of Rural Deans at Fulham Palace. The archdeacons were present; but a great many of the rural deans were absent, having left town. The chief subjects of discussion were the best mode of saving the Church from suffering—1. From the tendency to excess in ritual observances.—2. From unrestrained license of speculation. The discussion, we understand, was opened by the bishop in a clear and temperate speech, pointing out the difficulties on the one side, and the objections on the other. Many of those present expressed their opinions, and the majority were not against rubrical observances in the abstract, but against the tendency and significance of extreme ritualism, which they thought caused men, more especially the young, to prefer the genuine and authoritative practices of the Church of Rome, to the counterfeit imitation of them in our own. There was a general feeling in favour of an attempt to obtain legislative sanction to a revised code of rubrics making as few changes as possible; merely explaining some and harmonising others. On the second subject very little was said beyond some very able remarks by the bishop on the tendency in the present day to gloss over the dire nature and odiousness of sin, and of a want of faithfulness in not bringing prominently forward the atonement of Christ and the work of the Spirit in sanctification. A tone of moderation is said to have pervaded the meeting, while there was a feeling of deep responsibility on the part of those present, and an earnest desire to guard against the adoption of any hasty or questionable measures.—*John Bull.*

THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE NONCONFORMISTS.—There is evidence, in the recent debate on the Abolition of Tests, that not only the whole University question, but the relation of an important section of the Church party to Nonconformists, is already entering a new phase. "Very much," as Mr. Gladstone remarked, "in a bill of this kind, depends upon the tone, language, and views of those by whom it is introduced"; and "it was impossible," he added, "to mistake the animus and spirit of the mover." And the debate that followed betrayed the alarm of the speakers, not at the claims of Nonconformists as such, but at the temper of the champions of latitudinarianism. This fear gave soberness and sobriety to the discussion. The demands of Dissent were treated at least with respect. The heavy artillery that so lately has grown hoarse with thundering its anathemas against Nonconformists was for the moment silent. Mr. Disraeli polished no high-flown platitudes against us. The watchword of "Supremacy" was hushed. With treason so thinly veiled beside them, it was no time for Churchmen to triumph. They were professedly discussing the claims of Nonconformists; but the enemy they feared was not before them in the field, but in their own ranks in the camp. And here we call upon all to observe, that if in this case the fortunes of the liberty of Nonconformity are linked with those of the liberalism of more or less heterodox Churchmen, it is no fault of ours. If Conservative Churchmanship—whatever may be the godliness that may underlie any part of it—is known to us only as devoted to the relentless repudiation of every demand of our Evangelical Nonconformity, the guilt of the consequences of that course rest upon those who have adopted it. We say "Evangelical Nonconformity": for the liberties that for centuries we have sought have been in the interests, not of error, but of piety; and the lives and labours of our leaders shall bear high witness to the purity of their faith and the abundance of their sacrifices. And if, at last, even heresy should help to smite off the fetters that orthodox bigotry has made us wear so wearily, we must not be taunted that we have entered into an unholy alliance, and must not be told to be ungrateful! We press these considerations with the utmost seriousness upon the attention of those Churchmen who are attached to what are commonly understood as the distinctive doctrines of their Church. We warn them that, for years past, they have been forcing men, who believe those doctrines as heartily as themselves, into a position which one day every sound Churchman will deplore. But, instead of conciliating our alliance, no means have been left unemployed to inflame our opposition. The Conservative party, who proclaim themselves so loudly as the champions of "the doctrines and the discipline" of the Church, have identified themselves with a policy of "indiscriminate resistance" to

every demand which a Nonconformist may make; are elated if they detect in a Dissenter the signs of mortification or a sense of wrong, and are ready to turn the thumbscrew the tighter as they watch the sufferer wince. No matter how palpable the injustice that it is sought to remove—no matter how microscopic the concession that it is sought to secure—no matter whether it is a right of his citizenship or of his Christianity that he wishes to assert: let the Nonconformist ask anything at the hands of Parliament, and the leaders of the Church round their periods, sharpen their invectives, marshal the "great country party," and the appeal is rejected with contumely.—*British Quarterly Review.*

Religious Intelligence.

LEICESTER—VICTORIA-ROAD CHURCH.

The foundation-stone of this proposed place of worship, designed for a Baptist church on open communion principles, was laid by Sir Morton Peto, Bart., M.P., on Thursday afternoon. The weather was most unpropitious; the rain began to descend about two o'clock, and continued to fall with provoking persistency to the close of the proceedings. Notwithstanding this, a large number of ladies and gentlemen interested in the work assembled. The Hundredth Psalm having been sung, Mr. R. Harris presented Sir Morton with a silver trowel, on which was engraved, "Presented to Sir Morton Peto, Bart., M.P., on the occasion of his laying the foundation-stone of the Victoria-road Nonconformist Church, Leicester, August 3, 1865." In doing so he stated that Sir Morton had travelled several hundreds of miles to be present at that ceremonial. The trowel was accepted with a few brief remarks. The stone was then laid, after which the company adjourned to a large shed on the opposite side of the works. Sir Morton Peto then resumed his address, which bore upon the object they were met to commemorate. In the course of it he said that whether they called it a church or chapel, they did not view that structure as anything but simply as a place of assembly. He made that remark because he sometimes feared it was thought that they were losing some of the broad and distinctive principles of Nonconformity. The Rev. Mr. WILKINSON then read the 83rd Psalm, which was followed by prayer by the Rev. E. S. Cecil. The Rev. T. LOMAS then addressed the assembly. He said that while they intended that the building should be beautiful in itself, yet he thought he spoke the mind of every member of that committee, when he said that it was not intended that empty ritualism or pretentious rationalism should take the place of the Gospel. Mr. G. VICARS then read a document which gave an account of the origin and progress of the undertaking, the amount of subscription promised, the amount of the builder's contract, and other matters. These, with some newspapers, were placed in a sealed bottle, which was deposited in the stone.

The Rev. W. BROCK then addressed the assembly, and in the course of his remarks said:—

He was speaking in the presence of men who knew as well as he did, that all the way back to the very earliest period of the Christian era there had been men and women who had been the salt of the earth, and as a light shining in dark places; men who preached as far as opportunity was given them, and who had practised nine-tenths of all that the people practised in the places of worship which were erected now. It should be known to the young persons present that they were not a people of yesterday, having nothing whatever to commend them to their thoughtful and intelligent neighbours; they stood there and declared without any sense of arrogance or fear of a refutation of their statement that they were the lineal descendants of those men and women who had adhered to Christ as against the Church ecclesiastic so-called, who had adhered to the Scripture as against tradition, and who had done all that was within human power to hand on from generation to generation the simplicity as it is in Christ. That being true, they rejoiced, despite the unpropitious surroundings, in the gathering that day. They might perhaps be asked what they came there for. Well, they came there hoping to proclaim, in all their integrity, the truths of the Gospel, to proclaim them after an apostolic model, and so as to give no uncertain sound. They came there to proclaim, not the Church but the Saviour; not the crucifix, but the cross; not imagination, but faith; not the prophecy, but the person; nothing in the world that came out of human tradition (so far as they could keep clear of it), but the faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and along with that to extend the provision for reverential worship of the Father, through the intercession of the Son, and by the help of the Holy Ghost. There was one of the strangest mistakes abroad about Nonconformist worship that it was possible to conceive. A dignitary of the Church of England remarked to him, a short time ago, "Oh, yours is a place for preaching; ours is a place for prayer and preaching." He ventured to tell the rev. dignitary what he now distinctly asserted, that their Nonconformist procedure fell short of their intentions and did itself indelible dishonour if the places wherein they gathered were ever deficient in the great elements of worship. Not less preaching, but let there be, peradventure, more worship; more of that which God Himself ordained for the extension of His kingdom.

The Rev. J. P. MURSELL briefly expressed a wish that the blessing of God might rest upon the building and those who worshipped in it. The Rev. T. STEVENSON and R. WOODS expressed similar views, and the unavoidable absence of other Leicester ministers was explained.

Mr. J. D. HARRIS, M.P., in moving votes of

thanks to the gentlemen who had come from a distance, said:—

They would perhaps allow him to say that as an old inhabitant of Leicester, he remembered that at the census in 1821, they were told there were 31,000 inhabitants in this town, and he also recollected that the accommodation at that time for the worship of God consisted of five parish churches, and about 8 or 10 Dissenting places of worship. The parish churches, he believed, afforded sittings for something like 6,000 or 7,000 people, and the Dissenting places of worship furnished about a similar number of sittings. At the present day, the Church of England supplied perhaps ten churches, and afforded sittings for 14,000 people, while there were about thirty-five places of worship belonging to the Dissenting community, affording accommodation for about 20,000 of the inhabitants. There was large cause for thankfulness that that was the case; still, they would see from that statement that there was much room for continued exertion.

Mr. J. BAINES seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Sir MORTON PETO briefly acknowledged the compliment. Mr. R. HARRIS stated that the subscriptions already promised amounted to 4,500*l.*, and they had not yet made a canvass. He relied on the liberality of the friends in this important town, of which he was proud to be a native, for any further assistance that would be required. Mr. G. VICEARS briefly proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. Dr. Brock for being present that day. In responding, Mr. BROCK said that to be announced as "Dr." Brock was worse than if it rained twenty times as hard. He was greatly grieved, and told Mr. Harris so as soon he saw the bills, and he disowned the two letters ever since they had been attached to his name. He prayed the friends who had any respect for him whatever, never to call him Dr., and never to have him called Dr. by anybody else. The proceedings terminated by singing the Doxology.

The whole amount collected on the occasion was 205*l.* 10*s.* Mr. R. Harris contributes the magnificent sum of 1,000*l.*, and several other gentlemen have also subscribed 500*l.* each.

In reporting the proceedings referred to above the *Leicester Chronicle and Mercury* gives the following description of the proposed building:—

The site is the angle formed at the point where Victoria-road (once known as the Occupation-road) enters on London-road, and is on the rising ground of a public way which imparts to the stranger the most favourable idea of the town he is approaching. The style is Decorated Gothic, which, originating in the latter part of the thirteenth century, prevailed during that which followed, and admits of every variety of adornment in detail. The church will front the London-road; the principal entrance being in its centre, under a porch with three columns on each side. Smaller entrances to the galleries are on the right hand and on the left hand. Above the porch will be a large centre window of five lights, surmounted by elegant tracery. At the corner of the edifice will rise a tower of three stages, with spire above; the whole 152 feet high. The spire will spring without intervening parapet from the tower, and there will be handsome pinnacles at each angle. At the side nearest the Victoria-road will be seen rows of handsome windows, with gables above, lighting the body of the interior, which will consist of nave, transept, and apse or baptistry. The whole length inside will be rather more than one hundred feet, and the breadth about forty-five feet; except the transept, which will be sixty-one feet. On one side of the baptistry will be the organ, and on the other class-rooms. The pulpit will be at the point of junction between the body of the interior and the baptistry. The whole will be covered in by a pointed roof, underlying the outer roof, and in the latter will be louvres for ventilation purposes. Altogether, the church will accommodate 1,050 persons, and we hear the cost (including the price of the organ) will be about 7,000*l.* The materials will be granite, with stone quoins and dressings. The architect is Mr. Tarring, of Bucklersbury, London, who is represented by Mr. Croker, clerk of the works, and Messrs. Neale and Son are the builders.

LAMMAS HALL.—The Surrey Congregational Union has organised a series of Sabbath-day services at the Lammas Hall, Battersea, which have been conducted by various ministers connected with the Union, and it is intended to erect a Congregational church in the parish, the population of which is so rapidly increasing. A very eligible site, situate on the west side of the Bridge-road, has been secured for the proposed church, and as possession of the ground will be obtained at Michaelmas, a building committee is being formed, who will proceed to raise funds and make arrangements for the commencement of the building forthwith.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BAYSWATER.—The foundation-stone of the new Congregational chapel, Lancaster-road, Bayswater, was laid on Thursday, the 27th ult., by Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., in the presence of a considerable concourse of spectators. The proceedings were commenced by the singing of a hymn, and reading a selection of passages from the Scriptures, after which a very solemn and appropriate prayer was offered by the Rev. John Stoughton, of Kensington. A silver trowel was then presented to Mr. Morley by the Rev. J. S. Russell, the minister of the new church, and the stone was duly laid with the usual ceremonies; a bottle containing a statement of the origin of the undertaking, and the names of the building committee, with the papers of the day, and the newest coins of the realm, being deposited in a cavity in the stone. Mr. Morley then addressed the assembly in a few appropriate sentences, expressive of the motive and spirit which had led to the building of a new church in this quarter, and the principles of Christian truth and charity which would govern those connected with it, in their efforts to do the work of the Lord in this neighbourhood. The Rev. Dr. King, of the Pres-

byterian church, then engaged in prayer, and the proceedings terminated by singing the first verse of the National Anthem. The meeting adjourned to the Workmen's Hall, Portobello-road, the use of which had been kindly lent for the occasion, when the chair was taken by Henry Wright, Esq., Upper Phillimore-gardens, Kensington, who addressed the meeting in a very interesting speech. Addresses were also delivered by the Revs. J. S. Russell, Pearsall, Dr. King, W. G. Lewis, J. C. Gallaway, and A. Macmillan. It appears from the financial statement read to the meeting that the estimated cost of the new church, when completed, with schools, galleries, and spire, is 8,500*l.*, but in the meantime it is not contemplated to spend more than 2,500*l.*, reserving galleries, &c., to a future time. Towards this amount rather more than 1,500*l.* has been contributed; Mr. Morley and the London Chapel-building Society having given a large proportion of the funds. The new church is well situated in the midst of a rapidly-growing neighbourhood, a little to the north of All Saints' Church, and not far from the embankment of the Metropolitan Railway, Portobello-road. The building will be simple and elegant, and yet remarkably economical, with accommodation, when completed, for about one thousand persons.

BRIDPORT.—The Rev. T. Clarkson Finch has received a unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the Baptist Church at Bridport, Dorsetshire, and entered upon his stated labours on Lord's-day, 6th inst.

AMERSHAM.—The Rev. G. Winalow Bannister, late of Regent's-park College, having accepted the unanimous invitation of the church assembling in the Lower Meeting House, Amersham, Bucks (vacant by the removal of the Rev. J. Price to Australia), commenced his stated labours on the fourth Sunday in July.

NANTWICH.—Last Sabbath evening the Rev. E. L. Adams announced his resignation to the congregation worshipping in Monk's-lane Chapel. To this step he has been compelled by the state of his health, and on the oft-repeated advice of his medical attendant, Dr. Turner, of Manchester, who recommends him another scene of labour. By the inhabitants of Nantwich his departure is regretted as a great loss to the community. In his capacity as a minister and fellow-townsmen, Mr. Adams has been untiring in his labours of love during nine years.

THE NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, BURNLEY.—On Sunday week, the Rev. D. Falding, president of Rotherham College, preached the anniversary sermons in aid of the Sunday-school. In the afternoon the Rev. Dr. Campbell gave a deeply interesting address to the friends, scholars, and their parents in the chapel. The collections amounted to 14*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, and the attendance at the services was such as greatly to strengthen the hands of those who are working for the cause of God in this neglected neighbourhood. Mr. Nuttall, one of the students at Rotherham College, has accepted a cordial invitation to become the minister of the new sanctuary, and is expected to commence his labours the second Sunday in September. A day-school has been established with every prospect of success.

BERKHAMPTSTEAD.—A new Baptist chapel was opened at Great Berkhamptstead on Tuesday last week, in place of the old structure erected in 1722. The new chapel is in the decorated style of early English architecture. It contains sittings for 540 persons, whilst the old chapel would only accommodate 390 persons. At the rear of the chapel are large and commodious schoolrooms adjoining, of a corresponding style of architecture. The total cost of the chapel and schools is considerably under 2,000*l.*, including the site. Some of the materials of the old chapel have been used up in the new; and the actual expenditure will be about 1,600*l.*—a very moderate sum indeed for such a place of worship. The opening service on Tuesday morning was well attended. An excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Burns, from the 28th chapter of Genesis, 11th and 22nd verses inclusive. A public dinner and tea were afterwards held in the schoolrooms. At the evening service there was a crowded congregation. The devotional parts of the service were conducted by the minister of the chapel, the Rev. J. Lawton, and the Rev. Mr. Foster, of Wendover. A sermon was preached by the Rev. D. Katterns, of Hackney, from 1 Timothy ii. 19. After the service the Rev. T. Lawton announced that 1,004*l.* had been subscribed to the building fund, leaving 600*l.* still to be raised. The collections amounted to about 97*l.*, of which one gentleman gave a donation of 50*l.*

Correspondence.

TAKING EXERCISE AND SLAUGHTERING ANIMALS.

No flocks that range the valley free
To slaughter I condemn;
Taught by that Power that pities me,
I learn to pity them.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—I read the first number of the *Nonconformist* and the last: their main teaching has been my delight, but the "lateral" doctrines lately taught have been anything but grateful to my taste.

Taking exercise and enjoying it fully, must be accompanied with shedding of blood, is your latest teaching. And though you confess you know nothing practically about killing game, yet you are willing apparently to sanction the *battue* and defend the abominations of the game laws, and yet be the Editor of the democratic *Nonconformist*!

Not content with this inconsistency, you plunge into another absurdity, and avow that "animal food, if not absolutely necessary, is of incalculable value, is making

better blood, and giving a higher rate of vitality. You can do more and better work upon it than you could as a vegetarian."

Now, I venture to assume, you know as little practically of vegetarianism as you do of the game slaughter, or you would not have written such a sentence. On the contrary, I have been nearly twenty years a vegetarian, and have not found my blood worse than flesh-eaters, or my vitality lower than theirs. As to work, I am prepared to challenge you, and take any test you choose to submit to. And more, I will challenge you to show in your own person higher health, a better physique, or anything that indicates higher vitality.

You talk of "torpid liver." I have no painful evidence that I possess a liver at all, and my knowledge of my stomach is only inferential. I am fully aware that you may say that I am an exception. Well, Sir, I will gladly pass from self, for plain truth may be perverted into boasting and egotism.

Now, Sir, I ask for proof of your statement. Give me evidence as to the relation between "better blood" and flesh-eating. Tell me what elements of food there are in flesh that we cannot find in ordinary vegetables. If you cannot, show me the probable advantage of eating your vegetables second hand after they have passed through the system of a lower animal. Give me simply the analysis of the "better blood" of the flesh-eater, and of the worse blood of the vegetarian. And when you have done this to my satisfaction, or shown incontrovertibly that you told the truth when you stated that "better blood," higher vitality are the necessary results of flesh-eating, then I will confess my error. That all my experience has been fallacious, the evidence of my feelings a great deception, and my high vitality a delusion.

Nay, more, I must admit, then, that Providence has blundered—that He who created sun, moon, and stars, and hurled them into space, without the slightest miscalculation, moving them in their paths, swifter than lightning and yet in perfect order—that He, who clothed this earth with verdure, arranging all in perfect relation to climate and soil—that He who has provided the food of every animal from the tiny mouse to the vast elephant—in short, He that made all things wisely and well, made one miscalculation.—He did not provide all mankind with the means of keeping the "better blood" or of doing the better work.

For you, Sir, as an Editor, knowing all things, or presuming to do, are fully aware that flesh cannot be raised to feed the human family even upon the moderate amount provided for every British soldier. Nay, it is even impossible to provide flesh at that rate for even the inhabitants of our highly-favoured islands.

And if the quantity could be procured, how are our peasantry upon 9*s.* a week wages to buy flesh at 1*s.* a lb., and the mass of labourers to get even a Sunday dinner of the highly-priced if not highly-prized beef?

In the face, then, of the fact that the Author of our being has not provided flesh in sufficient abundance to feed the whole family of man, and that our peasantry are compelled to live on less than a pauper's or a felon's fare, and many of our town labourers are in an equally low condition, the man that tells them flesh is necessary for better blood and better work insults their poverty, blasphemes the God of all creation, and is a wickeder charlatan than the fortune-teller who robs an ignorant servant-girl, or than the medical quack who promises to cure all diseases without a correct knowledge of any.

W. G. WARD.

Ross, Herefordshire, July 31, 1865.

[The above letter was duly received, and was held over last week for want of space. We are rather reluctant to print what we have since received from Mr. Ward, but as it is a specimen—somewhat extreme we admit—of the treatment editors sometimes receive at the hands of "outspoken" correspondents, we will not withhold it:—]

"W. G. Ward presents his compliments to the Editor of the *Nonconformist*, and would remind him that the letter he sent to him on 'Taking Exercise' and taking life, has been suppressed by him without even the courtesy of a notice to a correspondent!"

"W. G. Ward believes that if the letter had been full of fulsome praise of the Editor or of his paper, it would have appeared."

"W. G. Ward notices that the Editor can call for 'pungent eloquence' to defy other tyrants, but when directed against himself for his mischievous sentiments, he can act the 'Lagree' and make an *auto da fe* of destroying the evidence against himself!"

"W. G. Ward candidly admits that he is aware his advocacy has often been marred by too outspoken zeal, a zeal at times beyond the control of his prudence; nevertheless he could show, if necessary, results from his advocacy that would gracefully adorn even the memory of the Editor of the *Nonconformist*."

"If W. G. Ward's sentiments are ultra, or too outspoken, the Editor should remember he always appends his own name to his effusions."

"Perristons-hill, Ross, Herefordshire,
July 4th, 1865."

NOTICE TO BOROUGH ELECTORS.—The overseers' list of persons entitled to be registered as electors of boroughs may be inspected at the doors of the churches and chapels and other public places of the several boroughs. All persons entitled, by length of occupation and the value of the property occupied, to be placed on the list, should examine the same, to ascertain that their name, address, and the premises occupied, appear on the list, and are correctly described. Electors who have changed their place or places of occupation within the year commencing July 31st, 1864, and ending July 31st, 1865, should see that all the premises occupied in succession during this period are described in the list, as the omission of such description exposes the voter to objection, unless a reclaim be made on or before the 25th of August. Liberal electors, or Liberals entitled to be registered, whose names do not appear on the list, or whose names, addresses, &c., &c., are incorrectly described, and electors who have occupied successive premises, and which premises are not described in the list, should at once claim to have themselves correctly placed on the register at the ensuing revision.

FAILURE OF THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

There has been no communication with the Great Eastern since Wednesday last. The following are the latest telegrams received:—

WEDNESDAY, 9 a.m.—1,200 miles paid out; all going on well.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—1,200 miles paid out at 7.50 a.m. 1,050 miles run by the Great Eastern at 6.50 a.m. All going on well.

Then on Wednesday evening came information from Valentia that the signals from the Great Eastern had become unintelligible about noon on Wednesday, and that no information had been since had with the ship. Such have been the daily reports, which are now no longer issued.

Up to nine on Sunday night a telegram from Valentia reported no alteration in the condition of the wire, and at that time it might be safely said that none was expected.

The theory put forward on Friday, that the suspension of communication might have arisen from magnetic disturbance, was strongly confirmed by a letter of Professor Airy, in which that gentleman said that precisely at the time when the signals became unintelligible there commenced the most violent magnetic storms on record. They continued more or less till Sunday. In another letter, the Professor says:—

In conclusion, I would remark, that from the beginning of the magnetic storm, on Wednesday, August 2, at noon, to its termination, on Sunday, August 6, about 10 a.m., I do not think it possible that a telegraphic signal can have passed through the Atlantic cable; or that any experiment can have valid information as to the interruption or failure in insulation of the wire. Since Sunday morning, August 6, at 10 a.m., I should think that signals would pass, and that legitimate inferences may be drawn from the ordinary test experiments.

(From the Times of Monday.)

The failure of the Atlantic Cable and its severance from the Great Eastern may now be considered certain, and no commercial misadventure of modern times has ever excited more wide-spread interest and deeper regret than this almost national disaster. Even as late as yesterday evening hopes were entertained—hopes not altogether ill-founded—that signals would be resumed. That time, however, has been overpast and the wire remains as dumb and useless as it has been since Wednesday, with the only difference that during the interval that has elapsed the most elaborate and careful tests have been applied to the wire, and the results of these experiments submitted to such electricians as have the largest experience in testing submarine cables. The almost unanimous verdict of these gentlemen has been that the 1,250 miles paid out is lost—is severed from the ship, and now lying useless at the bottom of the Atlantic. We say almost unanimous opinion, for a few still hope, and almost believe, that the ship has yet got hold of the cable, and may haul back and repair the fault. Their reason for entertaining this expectation is that as yet no battery currents have come to land at Valentia. In almost every case where a submarine cable parts beneath the sea its copper conductor protrudes beyond the broken gutta-percha end, and comes in contact with the outside spiral iron wires. The action of the salt water instantly makes a battery of the iron and copper, and would transmit what might almost be mistaken for weak signals to the instruments at Valentia. These are called battery currents, and none of these have come. In the case of the old Atlantic cable these battery signals kept hope alive for weeks after the cable was gone, for they were sometimes so distinct upon the needles as almost to spell words, and day after day induced the belief that the fault, whatever it was, had healed itself, and that messages were coming. But the construction of the two cables is so widely different as to leave little ground for hope from the absence of these currents now. The old cable was covered with 126 fine unprotected wires woven into eighteen strands of seven wires each. The present cable has only ten strands of stout iron wire, each of which is carefully insulated by a good thick covering of tarred hemp, and these enclose the gutta-percha core. When the old cable broke, therefore, metallic contact was certain to be at once set up between its conductor and ragged strands of iron wire, whereas the present cable might easily be broken at the bottom of the sea without any battery currents arising, as its outer wires are almost insulated by the hemp. This is, unfortunately, a strong argument, against those who hope that the Great Eastern has still got the end of the cable and is underrunning it to out out the fault; but, unfortunately, a still stronger argument remains. Allowing the widest margin for the time this operation of hauling in the rope from such tremendous depths would occupy, and a further margin of twelve hours for sudden eventualities, still the Great Eastern should have reached the fault at 2 p.m. yesterday afternoon, and signals would have come through before the evening. None have come, but, on the contrary, all the tests are considered by electricians as showing conclusively that up to about 1,230 miles the insulation and conductivity of the line is absolutely perfect, and that within a few miles beyond that distance it is severed and lying at the bottom of the ocean. The balance of evidence and of scientific opinion points so overwhelmingly to this disastrous result, that it now, we fear, admits of no reasonable doubt. Of course, the most extraordinary theories and surmises are rife as to the cause of the accident. Some give the benefit of their doubts to sharks, some to whales, some to air bubbles in the gutta-percha, and others dwell upon the likelihood of malicious injury. It

appears almost certain that the fault did not manifest itself, and was therefore not detected by those on board the great ship, till the faulty portion had been left some twelve miles astern. What occurred at Valentia, of which we have now full details, shows almost with equal certainty what would then take place on board the Great Eastern. She was probably at once stopped, her head got round, and the cable passed through the winding-in machinery fixed forward. How much of the rope was wound in again it is impossible to say, but it seems almost certain that in this final effort the cable was broken outside the ship and went at once to the bottom. To wind in a rope having such hold on the water as this hemp-covered cable must have had would have been hazardous in the extreme, from the certainty that any movement on the vessel giving it a sudden pull would part it at once. The old Atlantic cable, which was of less strength, and had a greater weight in the water than the present cable, was, it is true, wound in from a depth of 2,000 fathoms in the Bay of Biscay. This operation, however, occupied nineteen hours, even though its wire covering had not half the friction through the water which the hemp would have in the rope which has now been partly lost. It has been suggested by some that at the time the accident happened the telegram to Valentia showed the Great Eastern to have been paying out very fast indeed. If this conjecture—for as yet it is only a conjecture—is correct, it will, no doubt, be explained by the fact that the ship was then meeting a heavy swell, which required the brakes to be opened and the cable let run as the waves swept astern.

At Valentia on Wednesday last the signals up to 9 a.m. were coming with wonderful distinctness and regularity, but about that time a violent magnetic storm set in. No insulation of a submarine cable is ever so perfect as to withstand the influence of these electrical phenomena, which correspond in some particulars to storms in the ordinary atmosphere, their direction generally being from east and west. Their action is immediately communicated to all conductors of electricity, and a struggle set up between the natural current and that used artificially in sending messages. This magnetic storm, which was announced in *The Times* of Thursday, affected every telegraphic station in the kingdom. At some the wires were utterly useless, and between Valentia and Killarney the natural current towards the west was so strong along the land lines that it required an addition of five times beyond the ordinary battery power to overcome it. This magnetic storm, which ceased at 2 a.m. on Friday, was instantly perceptible in the Atlantic cable, and at about 10 a.m. on Wednesday the signals from the Great Eastern became confused and indistinct. Of course, the presence of the magnetic currents was known to those at Valentia, and due allowance was therefore made for insufficiency of signals coming eastward. Other and more alarming symptoms, however, soon presented themselves. A rapid loss of insulation became evident. The twenty calls used on board the Great Eastern had no power to signal. At eleven o'clock a.m. it was seen that this battery power was considerably increased, and from eleven to twelve a.m. it was evident that repeated attempts were being made from the Great Eastern to send messages by the code signals. None of the signs used, however, were sufficiently perfect to be read with certainty. At twelve noon they became a mere crowd of feeble signs, before one p.m. the magnetic currents had resumed the mastery, and when the electrical storm was over, the tests, as we have said, gave "dead earth," or a severed wire, almost at the very spot where the first loss of insulation was detected. Since that time, with the single exception of the absence of battery currents, which we have already described, not a sign has been wanting to show that the cable is parted. The Great Eastern is expected to make her number off Valentia about noon on Wednesday. She is not likely to be preceded by either of her guards of honour—the Sphinx or the Terrible—as both the latter vessels, after their long cruise off Valentia, are likely to be short of coal. The great ship, however, has coal enough to bring her back at full speed. It is expected that, after communicating by signal with Valentia, she will go to Portland—the only harbour where she has room and depth of water sufficient to swing to a single anchor. The loss which has been sustained by this partial failure of the expedition is estimated at about 200,000*l.*—a loss which, we are glad to say, may be considerably reduced by underrunning and recovering much of the line laid from Valentia. We believe that neither the directors of the Atlantic Company nor its shareholders have been disheartened by the present unfortunate accident, but, on the contrary, are at once about to take measures to replace the cable that had been lost. To do this, however, will require at least three or four months of careful manufacture, so that all chance of a resumption of the undertaking this summer is out of the question.

CAMBRIDGE ELECTION.—We understand that, in accordance with the opinion of counsel, a petition will be presented against the return of Mr. Forsyth to Parliament, on the ground of his disqualification by holding an office under the Crown; and public notice having been given of such disqualification, the seat will be claimed for the highest on the poll of the two Liberal candidates (Lieut.-Colonel Torrens).—*Cambridge Independent.*

MORAL WALES.—The summer assizes at Beaumaris were to be held last Thursday, but there was not a single prisoner for trial. The population of the county is upwards of 54,000, but there are only eleven prisoners in gaol, six of whom are Irish, one English, and only four Welsh.

LORD STANLEY ON WORKMEN'S CLUBS.

A Workman's Hall, which has just been completed in Birkenhead, for the purpose of providing instruction and amusement for the working classes, was inaugurated on Thursday night, in the presence of the Right Hon. Lord Stanley, M.P., Earl Grosvenor, M.P., Lord R. Grosvenor, M.P., and Mr. John Laird, M.P., and a large number of gentry and the inhabitants of the town. The site of the building is in Cloughton-road, a leading thoroughfare, near its junction with Conway-street, and in the immediate vicinity of the General Post-Office. After alluding to the rapid growth of the town, which forty-four years ago had only 200 inhabitants and now possessed nearly 40,000, he said the primary object for which they had met was to inaugurate a club, or place of meeting for working men—a place for books, refreshment, and social intercourse. He was not going to say one word upon the old hackneyed subject of keeping a man away from the public-house. He had always for his own part felt, that it was not for those who led more luxurious and less laborious lives to speak harshly. What he had a right to say was, that no man ought to be driven to the public-house for want of any other place to go to. Perhaps it might be asked, "Why don't they stop at home?" It might be said in reply that men of the richer class, having more time at their disposal and more comfortable homes, did not make it a universal rule to pass their evenings with their wives and children. He did not wish to say much of that class, which he was bound to speak of as an unfortunate one—those who lived in lodgings, and who sheltered their family whenever they put on their hats. But social intercourse was as necessary to man as food or fresh air. A man did not lead a healthy life without it, and therefore whatever enabled him to enjoy that intercourse in the most satisfactory manner was a benefit to him intellectually and morally. He (the noble lord) thought, therefore, that places of meeting like this, which were meant to be real clubs or places for the meeting of clubs, and not schools or institutes in disguise—though of course both schools and institutes were very good things in their way—places where talk, and newspapers, and refreshment might be had, with security against disturbance from drunken or disorderly persons, ought to exist, and he believed shortly would exist, in every great town, and in very many of the little towns in England. If the question were asked what security they had that an institution of this kind would be supported, his answer was that they confidently believed that it would be not only managed, but also to a great extent owned, by those for whose benefit it had been established. For this purpose the shares had been made of very small amount, in order to induce artisans to become holders of them. By a stretch of liberality which appeared to him even extreme, preferential advantages had been given to holders of no more than two or three shares over those holding a large number, so that the former class were at least sure of a return. If this club did not receive the support which was expected it would not arise from a want of power in the working men to keep it going. There was a fallacy or mental confusion often produced by that indefinite term, the working-class. People were apt when the phrase was mentioned to think of the labourers in rural districts, whose weekly earnings barely sufficed to meet their weekly wants; but he need not tell them that the skilled artisan in Lancashire was not only above the reach of distress, except under extraordinary and exceptional circumstances, but that he was better off as far as money went than very many amongst those educated men who embarked upon the honourable perils of professional life. The rate of wages in the neighbourhood averaged from 70*l.* to 100*l.* a-year, and if a skilled artisan was employed by piece-work he could command a considerably higher rate. Now, he did not think he should be told that men earning those wages were not able to support a club. Indeed, he saw no reason why a large proportion should not live in their own freehold house. He had always looked upon five things as going together—the cheap school and the institute (which was only the school continued), the cheap book and newspaper, the savings-bank and the insurance office (which was another form of the savings-bank), the club, and the freehold house. Three of these they had already. The two others they might have if they chose to provide them for themselves. Speaking in the interest of the employer, he was not afraid that a man would work one bit the worse for feeling himself in a more satisfactory position. As to independence, nobody was independent except the savage. We all depended upon one another—the poor upon the rich, the rich upon the poor. Civilised society could not exist otherwise; but he believed that every thinking and feeling employer desired those who worked under him to be independent in the true sense—viz., to feel that they were above the pressure of immediate distress, and not liable to the caprice or dictation of any single individual. The more a feeling of self-respect and independence in that sense was cultivated amongst the working-classes, the better would be the present, and not more difficult would be the future, relations between them and their employers. In conclusion, the noble lord wished every prosperity to the undertaking, and expressed a confident hope in the success of those who had given their money, their time, and their energies to its promotion.

After several addresses from working men, Mr. LAIRD, M.P., moved a vote of thanks to Lord Stanley, to Earl Grosvenor, and to Lord Richard Grosvenor, who briefly replied.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT.

The report which has just been issued by the Registrar-General on the year 1863 deals with several topics of interest. The population of England (with Wales) in the middle of that year is estimated at 20,554,137; that of Great Britain at 23,655,483. Every hour in the year (upon an average) saw 83 living children born and 54 persons die in England. There was in the year one birth to every 28 persons living, and one death to every 43 persons living. In 59 persons living one married in the year. It is sometimes supposed that people marry later in life than they did formerly, and it may be the case in certain classes of society, but among the mass of the population the proportion who marry young increases almost every year. In 1843, in every 100 marriages in England, 4.45 of the men and 13.25 of the women were under 21; in 1863 these proportions had risen to 6.61 and 19.90. The returns of 1863 show early marriages especially numerous in the seats of the straw-plait manufacture, in the West Riding, and in Staffordshire, Leicestershire, and Durham. It is unsatisfactory to observe that the proportion of persons marrying who made their mark instead of signing the register was the same in 1863 as in the previous year. For years there had been a continuous decrease. Only 76 men and 67 women in a hundred wrote their names. London heads the list with 89 men in a hundred, and 82 women; the counties adjoining London, and also Sussex, Hants, Gloucester, and Devon, with Yorkshire and the northern counties, show a large proportion of persons signing their names. But in Monmouthshire and Wales the state of education, measured by this standard, is very defective, in Bedfordshire not much better, and in Lancashire and Staffordshire nearly half the women who married signed by making their mark. To every 100,000 persons living there were 126 marriages by license, and 718 by banns—numbers that distinguish the marriages among the higher and middle classes from the marriages among the classes below. The number of marriages in the superintendent-registrar's office increases, and is almost as great as that in all the Dissenters' chapels added together. The marriages among Quakers continue to decline, and those among Jews to increase. The usual influence of season on births was seen in 1863. If the average number of births in a quarter be represented by 1,000, then there were in the first quarter of the year, 1,039, in the second quarter, 1,043, in the third, only 946, in the fourth, 972. The proportion of the children born who were illegitimate—6.5 of every hundred—was rather higher than in the two preceding years. More than 47,000 children were born out of wedlock in England in 1863. The proportion varied much in different parts of the kingdom. In London it was very low, but in all great towns some of these births escape registration. South of the latitude of London the proportion was generally below the average, but not often in other parts. In Bedfordshire 7.1 per cent. of the children were illegitimate, in Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire, 7.3, in Suffolk, 7.9, in Norfolk, 11.3 per cent. In all the north-midland counties—Notts, Derbyshire, &c.—the proportion was high; in Shropshire it was 10.1 per cent. In North Wales it was 8.6, in the North Riding, 9.2, in Westmoreland, 9.2, and in Cumberland no less than 12 per cent. The Registrar-General considers it surprising that so little attention is paid to the disclosure that year after year a rate of illegitimacy far above the average prevails in certain counties. In relation to mortality, the returns for 1863 are noticeable as marking the commencement of a death-rate beyond the average, after three years of health. The death-rate varied from 1.735 per cent. in Westmoreland to 2.629 in Lancashire—three deaths in one county to two in another. The rate in London was 2.447, the highest since the cholera year, 1854. The death-rate of Scotland was almost identical with that of England, showing England, with her metropolis almost as populous as the northern kingdom, and with many other great city populations, as healthy as Scotland, which affords an average space of six acres to a person, while in England the area is less than two acres.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

The Commissioners of Customs, by direction of the Privy Council, have transmitted to the collectors at the various outposts special instructions to exercise the greatest care in the examination of all cattle which may be brought into this country, and, in the event of any disease being discovered, to adopt "all necessary measures" to prevent its introduction and diffusion. As regards the metropolis, all cowkeepers or dealers having possession of cattle labouring under any contagious or infectious disorder are required, by an order dated the 24th ult., to give notice thereof, under a penalty of 20*l.*, so that an official inspection may be made, and steps taken to check its propagation.

An important letter has been published from Professor Simonds, of the Royal Veterinary College, in which he submits a variety of valuable and useful suggestions, with the view of checking the further progress of the scourge. So serious is the question that Professor Simonds states that, unless farmers, stock-owners, cattle-dealers, and others who are interested, cordially co-operate in the endeavour quickly to exterminate the disease, it may assume a magnitude rightly to be regarded as a great national calamity.

Mr. H. D. Skrine, of Warleigh Manor, declares that the disease can be self-generated, for his cows, which have been quite separated from all other cows, have been seized, and have recovered, a statement which needs professional confirmation.

Another correspondent writes respecting the sources of contagion. He considers the most fertile sources to be the lairs in the vicinity of the market, which ought to be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected.

Professor Gamgee asserts that there is not the slightest evidence of a check in the progress of the fever in England. On the contrary, the outbreaks are increasing in number, and widening the area of infected country. In Surrey it broke out in a dairy farm, and, out of between thirty and forty cows, eleven were affected. On the Essex Marshes, out of a hundred grazing beasts, five were lost; and another lot of cows (seventy or eighty) have been reduced to half their original number in ten days. These outbreaks have occurred where communication with imported stock is of daily occurrence. In Lambeth, a cowkeeper purchased two Dutch heifers about six weeks back. He placed them with fourteen others, and the whole lot had to be destroyed. These are probably among the earliest cases which occurred in this country since the 27th June. A dairyman in Sussex purchased two foreign cows at the Cattle-market, and when he took them home he took the precaution of isolating them. Both died of the plague, but his stock of thirty cows was saved by the quarantine he had instituted. The disease is reported to exist at Portsmouth, the Midland and eastern counties, and Dublin, and has found its way across the Tweed.

The Corporation are taking steps to purge the cattle-market at Islington of tainted animals. Mr. Gibbins, the chairman of the market committee, made a statement at the Mansion-house on Monday of what had been done. Several experts had been consulted, and they gave it as their opinion that the disease had not been brought in by foreign cattle, as to the importation of which great care was taken. They believed that the disease had broken out in some of the dairies. The committee had no power to exclude cattle from the market; but when once an animal had entered the market inspector could order its destruction if diseased. The committee had therefore placed men at the gates, so that diseased cattle should get as little way as possible into the market. On the previous day four diseased cows had been seized, and as it was found that the parties who sent them knew they were diseased, proceedings had been ordered against the offenders. Every effort was being made to cleanse and purify the lairs and stalls; and as the disease was confined to milch cows, a part of the market had been appropriated for their reception. The Corporation is therefore doing its part well. The Privy Council, in the meantime, is addressing itself to railway companies and others engaged in the carriage of cattle, urging the adoption of precautions for preventing the mixing of diseased with healthy animals.

A letter from Lewes, in Sussex, says the disease in sheep has been confined to one flock in that county, and no fear is entertained of its extension.

Mr. Smithies, of the *British Workman*, writes to the *Times*:—"If you were to send your 'commissioner' to see the landing of the cattle at the wharfs near the London Docks on the Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings, and then follow the poor, half-maddened cattle and sheep (in numberless cases without any food or water for forty-eight hours) up to the new Smithfield, you would soon solve the problem as to the causes of much of the disease so prevalent. In thousands of cases poor cattle are tied up in the Cattle-market, with their heads close to a post, from midnight of the Sunday until two p.m. on the Monday, under a blazing sun often for hours, without a bite or a drink. The miseries inflicted upon the cattle doubtless recoil in a terrible penalty upon the health of the public."

Postscript.

Wednesday, August 9, 1865.

THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

The following telegram was published yesterday:—

"VALENTIA, Aug. 7.

"May's tests to-day make the distance of the fault 1,175 miles, taking the temperature of the water at 31. I think the last distance telegraphed is right."

On this the *Times* remarks:—

The last telegram but one from the Great Eastern showed 1,200 miles paid out, and all going well, without fault of insulation or conductivity; the last news of all told 1,250 knots submerged, and still everything was well. It was only after the receipt of this latest despatch that the messages became unintelligible. If the latest official news which we publish above is correct, and if it is true that nearly 100 miles of perfect cable can be paid out and regularly signalled through for more than twenty-four hours, and then suddenly, without cause assigned or known, part at the bottom of the ocean, it is only fair to presume that the shareholders are embarked in one of the most hazardous undertakings which even modern shareholders ever ventured on. Against this unfavourable dictum, however, may be fairly set the opinion of the most eminent electricians in this country who have been consulted as to the tests, and who give it as an almost unanimous opinion that the cable parted from the Great Eastern soon after her unintelligible signals were made on Wednesday last. This afternoon, or, at latest, to-morrow morning, the Great Eastern will be able to telegraph her own account of the disaster, which, we think, will be found to amount to the simple words that those on board found the fault after it had been paid out atern, and in the effort to retrieve the accident, by hauling in the rope and repairing it, either broke it or had to cut it on seeing that the attempt was useless.

LATEST CONTINENTAL NEWS.

The Emperor of Austria, the King of Bavaria, and the Grand Duke of Hesse have accepted an invitation to be present at the National Rifle Association, at Salzburg, which will be held from the 16th to the 19th of August. The King of Prussia is expected to arrive there at the same time from Gastein.

The *Nene Freie Presse* asserts that if the negotiation which Count Blome is entrusted to resume should fail, Austria will immediately urge the Federal Diet to recognise the Duke of Augustenberg as Sovereign of the Duchies.

AMERICA.

(For the North American.)

New York, July 28 (Afternoon).

The Shenandoah destroyed a large number of whalers in the North Pacific last month. The captain of the Shenandoah had been informed by the captain of the Mile, one of the captured vessels, of the surrender of General Lee and the termination of the war, but discredited both, and when the Mile set sail for San Francisco was continuing his depredations.

Mr. Seward has sent a despatch to the American Ambassador in France, intimating that the United States Government has left itself at liberty to deal with the Mexican question at a suitable opportunity.

Considerable excitement existed in Wall-street yesterday, in consequence of the publication in the Cincinnati papers of intelligence, purporting to have been received from Texas, *via* Cairo, that the Imperial Mexican Government had ordered the immediate concentration of 35,000 troops at Matamoras to oppose the supposed aggressive designs of the large bodies of Federal troops moving into Texas; and, notwithstanding that the news was generally discredited, gold rose rapidly to 146.

New York, July 29 (Evening).

Governor Brownlow has requested General Thomas to send troops into the counties of Tennessee, to preserve order during the elections.

The *Raleigh Standard* asserts that the rebel element is gaining strength in North Carolina. The rebel papers openly denounce the Government for promulgating treason.

It is reported that Kirby Smith has escaped to Mexico, and has surrendered to the Governor of Saitillo, and by him parolled.

The hostile feeling between the French and the Federal troops along the Mexican frontiers is reported to be increasing.

(For the City of Washington, *via* Crookhaven.)

New York, July 29, 11 a.m.

A force of 1,000 Indians, consisting of bands from five different tribes, attacked Platte-bridge telegraph-station, in Dakota territory, which was garrisoned by 250 soldiers. On the 25th, after two days' fighting, the Indians, having lost heavily, retreated westward, destroying the telegraph. The soldiers lost a lieutenant and one man killed, and thirty-four wounded. A note, purporting to have been written by a white prisoner in the hands of the Indians, was subsequently found upon the battlefield, which stated that the Indians intended to continue hostilities, and were expecting reinforcements. The garrison has been reinforced, and has started in pursuit of the Indians.

Accounts from both Fortress Monroe and Washington state that Mr. Jefferson Davis is now permitted frequent exercise about the ramparts and interior of the fortress.

The War Department has established a bureau for the collection, preservation, and publication of Confederate archives.

The conflict of authority between the courts and the Freedmen's Commission in Alexandria, Virginia, previously reported, has been settled by the establishment of a Freedmen's Court for the adjudication of all cases in which negroes are concerned.

Two ships laden with tobacco from Richmond, stated to be upon French account, sailed from Hampton Roads on the 23rd.

The last of the Seven-Thirty (7-30) Loan was subscribed on the 26th.

Washington despatches state that owing to the increase of the receipt, and the great diminution of the expenses, of the Treasury, Secretary McCulloch is now of opinion that he will be able to meet all requisitions until the assembling of Congress, without resorting to temporary loans.

Gold, 145.

THERE WAS A GREAT ROWING MATCH on the Thames yesterday between Robert Chambers, of Newcastle, and Henry Kelly, of London. Chambers has rarely been beaten. Some time ago he rowed against Kelly and defeated him. Yesterday, however, the tables were turned. After a sharp contest Kelly beat his opponent by four lengths.

MARK-LANE—THIS DAY.

Fresh up to our market to-day, the arrivals of home-grown wheat were very moderate. The weather having become settled, and the progress of harvest-work being satisfactory, the trade was decidedly less firm, as compared with Monday. Factors, however, held both red and white qualities at that day's advance in prices; but millers being unwilling to purchase except at some concession,—say of 1*s.* per quarter,—the bulk remained unsold at the close of business. With foreign wheat, the market was moderately supplied. The demand for all descriptions ruled quiet, and Monday's prices were with difficulty supported. Floating cargoes of wheat met a slow sale, at barely late rates. Spring corn, however, was firm in price. Very little barley was on offer. The trade was firm, at fully late prices.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1865.

SUMMARY.

POLITICS are just now at the lowest discount, and it is no use to flog the dead horse. A preternatural calm prevails,—the more noticeable after the excitement of the late elections, and the penny dailies are in a pitiable state of distress to find materials for their several editions which will tempt an indifferent public. The Head of the State, with most of the members of the Royal family, has embarked for Germany on a rather long visit. Ministers of State are taking needed recreation far off from Downing-street, and nothing beyond the progress of the cattle plague throughout the country, and the expected arrival of the Great Eastern to solve the mystery of the failure of the Atlantic cable, can excite the languid interest of those who remain at home. If business is just now slack at all the great centres of industry, the agricultural population are putting all their energies to gather in the fruits of the earth, and take advantage of the settled weather, which has happily set in, to secure the crops in good condition.

The opening of a Workman's Hall at Birkenhead has enabled Lord Stanley to make a sensible and thoughtful speech on the advantages of such institutions, and their adaptedness to the improved position of the industrial classes. His lordship has never been one of that class of public men who have affected to patronise working men. Self-reliance is the burden of all the addresses he delivers to them—the capacity they have within themselves to secure their own independence, and elevate themselves in the social scale. Our skilled artisans, he says, are so well off that they can not only secure their own club managed by themselves, but ought to a large extent to live in their own freehold houses. There are five things which, in his view, should go together—the cheap school and the institute (which was only the school continued), the cheap book and newspaper, the savings-bank and the insurance-office (which was another form of the savings-bank), the club, and the freehold house. And these social benefits are to come not as the results of state assistance, but of self-help and individual energy. Such truths as these are always welcome from the lips of statesmen who have the confidence of the public, and they tend to foster that independent spirit which must underlie all real reforms in the social condition of the population.

But there are still masses of the people so sunk in ignorance and misery as to need the helping hand of the philanthropist. The vast amount of good that wealth can effect, when judiciously expended for the benefit of the helpless and degraded, is remarkably illustrated by the work carried on by M. Viewig, a benevolent Swiss merchant, in Golden-lane, Barbican—a place so forlorn and desolate, that in the language of a city missionary, it seemed almost as if Heaven itself had left it to its fate, as too far gone to be regenerated and restored. In this wretched district, M. Viewig has erected at his own cost baths and wash-houses on a large scale, model lodging-houses, schools, preaching places, and all the appliances of a regular "mission" to London Pariahs. This colossal work has grown beyond even the liberal means of the generous donor. Some 40,000*l.* has been expended in this enterprise—double what was originally intended—and now friends have come forward to relieve him of further responsibility, and it is proposed to form a limited liability com-

pany to complete and carry out his views. The influence of such a noble institution amid so degraded a population cannot but be salutary and abiding. M. Viewig is satisfied to do good in his own quiet way, but he offers a fine example of the use which may be made of wealth to improve the condition of the poor without impairing their self-respect.

Another fatal accident on the Alps—this time on Monte Rosa—where a party, consisting of two Englishmen and their guides, were nearly all engulfed by an avalanche, has called public attention afresh to the perils of Alpine climbing. The thrilling narrative of Mr. Edward Whymper, the only Englishman who survived the late attempt to scale the Matterhorn, deepens the impression which such hazardous adventures are calculated to create. There are abundant outlets for British enterprise and hardihood without attempting for pure recreation to scale almost inaccessible mountain peaks. In this case all the persons save one who attempted the feat were insured to such perilous exploits, but that one was the cause of a calamity which has destroyed four lives under the most tragical circumstances.

The proposals of the Austrian Government to the Court of Berlin relative to the Duchies, so far from pleasing Herr von Bismarck, have almost led to a diplomatic rupture between the two States, which has only been averted by a temporary arrangement for maintaining things pretty much as they were in the disputed territory. Meanwhile, the Crown lawyers at Berlin have decided that the Duke of Augustenburg has no legal claim to succeed to the Duchies, that the Grand Duke of Oldenburg has only a modified interest in them, and that the only legal claimant is the King of Denmark, who has transferred his rights to Prussia and Austria. King William, therefore, is for annexing these territories to the Prussian Crown, provided he can satisfy Austria, which he has not yet succeeded in doing. That Power, indeed, talks of using its influence with the Federal Diet to obtain the formal recognition of the rights of the Duke of Augustenburg.

President Johnson is pardoning and releasing all Confederate prisoners who apply to him, but he hesitates to declare his ultimate policy towards the South till it is seen whether the reorganised States will loyally accept the new order of things. There needs but one State to make up the requisite three-fourths majority which will give legal force to the constitutional amendment by which slavery is to be abolished throughout the Union, and there is no doubt that Kentucky will soon come in to the proposal. Till Congress meets in December next, nothing can be decided as to the course of legislation, but the question whether the negroes of the Southern States shall be invested with the right of voting with a view to their own protection against their late masters, and the greater tyranny of the landless whites, who are scarcely superior to them in education and intelligence, is agitating the whole American community, and is likely to become the dividing line of political parties.

INFANTICIDE.

THE conviction of Charlotte Winsor, of Torquay, of the murder of the girl Harris's illegitimate child, in the presence and with the assent of its mother—the revolting evidence given by the latter to the effect that the woman Winsor was a professional child-murderess for the neighbourhood—and the too solid grounds there are for believing that infanticide is frequent, especially in rural districts, have naturally revived discussion as to the most likely means of checking, if not wholly abolishing, the crime. If the subject were not so intensely grave, we should have been amused by the resuscitation of proposals which imply the profoundest ignorance of all the conclusions which experience teaches on the subject. As it is, we must confess our amazement at the crudeness of the suggestions which have been given to the public with all the confidence of ignorant self-conceit.

Infanticide, unhappily, is no new development of human depravity, even in this country. Probably, it has always been more common than was generally supposed. Without giving implicit credence to the statistics set before the public, we cannot withhold our assent to the conclusion that there is evidence enough to reflect deep disgrace upon the country. So far as we can gather up the known facts of the case, the crime is more frequent among our village population, in proportion to numbers of course, than it is among the inhabitants of our great towns. If so, it reflects small credit on the social and moral influence of an Established Church. It would seem at first sight incredible that where there is an authorised religious teacher, and, as we are for ever being reminded, an

educated Christian gentleman, holding spiritual relations with no more than two or three hundred families, and whose sole business it is to train them in the observance of their duties to God and to each other, it should be possible for vice to become so rampant, as to render child murder not only an easy offence, but one which should obtain a considerable amount of popular connivance. One would have imagined that the consciences of our villagers would have been developed—considering the influences which are supposed to be brought to bear upon them—sufficiently at all events to place infanticide among the rare and exceptional crimes, whether it was caused by shame or by poverty. It is not, however, the only instance in which it appears that in the very places and under the very circumstances where the Church has the most undisputed sway, and is least overburdened with excessive claims upon its exertion, the fruits of its teaching least recommended it.

We need hardly dwell upon the Foundling Hospitals' scheme as a remedy for the evil. No one who has been at the point of studying its actual working would venture to urge it. If ever proof were afforded of what ever has been and what ever must be the results of "immorality made easy," it has been in this case. It not only breaks down the bulwarks of chastity, but it increases in a fearfully progressive ratio the special crime it is intended to prevent. To retrace our steps in this direction would be to repeat a blunder which nothing but the most abundant and unhappy experience had already once compelled us to correct. There is no fear that our Legislature will be induced to listen to any such proposal. The most superficial inquiry would bring out evidence enough to insure its universal condemnation.

Scarcely less ridiculous is the suggestion of the *Spectator*. "We must trust the mother," it says, "whether we will or no, and the cure, if there is one, is to be found first in her improvement, and secondly in relieving her from some part of the terrible temptation." Doubtless, if both these things can be done, a good advance will be gained towards the end in view. But how are they to be brought about? "The former is slow work, though it may be accelerated, if the Nonconformist ministers will ever give up their obstructive chatter about the limits of State work, and permit sensible men to make education sternly compulsory, if legislators will prohibit female field-labour . . . and if events gradually raise the minimum of wages." We pass over the sneer at Nonconformist ministers, and the insufferable vanity which places the little knot of Broad Churchmen who write for the *Spectator*, and who advocate Government interference in almost all social matters, in the class of "sensible men" *par excellence*. The fling and the conceit are so entirely *à la Spectator*, and especially when it can let out its rancorous enmity to Dissenters, that it is not worth while bandying blow for blow. But who is this man that in the present day, and in England, ventures to insinuate that all sensible men, all but Nonconformist ministers, are friendly to a sternly compulsory education, and that nothing but "the obstructive chatter" of those ministers impede a much more enlarged action on the part of the State? Has he lived so much abroad—in India, perhaps—that he is so utterly ignorant of the direction which political controversy has taken during the last twenty years? Is he not aware that the public mind is deeply imbued with a distaste for over-legislation? Does he not know that there are not twenty men in both the Houses of Parliament put together who would not deprecate the degradation of education to a mere affair of police, and who would not laugh at any attempt to enforce the schooling of children by fines and imprisonment to be visited on their parents? Are one-tenth of the clergy in favour of his *nostrum*? The truth is, public opinion condemns it as a clumsy, impatient, self-defeating expedient, and, without meaning it, he does Nonconformist ministers the honour of hinting that public opinion is held in check by their "chatter," and assumes that since he is pleased to patronise the plan, "sensible men" must, of course, see the virtue which resides in it.

But what if we had a stern compulsory education, would that cure the horrors of poverty, to which the *Spectator* attributes the prevalence of child murder? Would it do so, unless "events raise the minimum of wages"? And if events do not effect that grand desideratum, will not the poverty remain? As to prohibiting by law female field labour, a thing that most of us would desire to see an end of, we are not sure that it would do much to increase the earnings, though it might conduce to the comfort of the cottiers' families. The suggestion is evidently one of a man who has a hobby, and who wishes to air it on any occasion, however inapposite.

Our contemporary, however, makes another proposal. "There surely might be child hospitals

in every great town, child schools in every village, in which babies could be received, not secretly but openly, not gratis but for payment, so as to relieve the mother of her toil and loss of work, often amounting to loss of bread, and be trained in their own station as the mother never could train them, and restored say at twelve years old." Talk of "chatter," indeed! Did Nonconformist ministers ever "chatter" to less practical purpose than this? Has the writer ever thought out what must be the inevitable effect of this precious scheme of a Baby Establishment? Has he ever considered what would be the probable results of having say a fifth or a fourth of the people of this country brought up without any practical knowledge of parental and family ties, not merely upon the children themselves, but upon their fathers and mothers, upon the social system, upon the general character of the population? Why, only abstract from the greater part of our poor households the humanizing influence of little children, and we venture to predict that the vacancy would insure a monstrous development of barbarism and savagery compared with which the present condition of things may be considered Paradisaical.

No, it is not by such plans as these that infanticide can be extirpated, nor by any panacea, which prescribes a remedy worse than the disease. The law may be beneficially altered so far as to make the penalty of the crime such as the Bench and the jury will not flinch from inflicting. "But," as the *Daily News* remarks, "the only sure reliance is a change in the morals and the manners of the class most subject to temptation and betrayal." This change can only be accomplished, as great social and moral changes always are, by means which elevate and purify the affections. The case is one which appeals to Christian compassion, and calls for Christian labour and supervision. Let these be displayed as they should, and come in contact with the poor through natural channels, and permanent improvement may be reasonably hoped for. But little is to be expected from making the State a sort of under-Providence, and casting the cares and responsibilities of life and society upon its shoulders.

FAILURE OF THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

BEFORE the close of the present week we shall probably be put into possession of all the information ever likely to be obtained respecting the unexpected and much-to-be-regretted failure of the Atlantic Telegraph expedition. It is too much to hope, we are afraid, that the Great Eastern may have been detained since Wednesday last by operations intended to recover the cable, and remedy its defect. Too long an interval of time has elapsed to warrant the slightest expectation that the accident which has occurred may be repaired on the spot, or that the total loss of insulation can be due to any other cause than the severing and loss of the rope. The leviathan ship may therefore be expected off our coast this evening or to-morrow, and we shall receive an explanation of the event which scarcely any explanation can reconcile to our feelings. It is a bitter disappointment, disheartening in the extreme to the promoters of the enterprise, and, we verily believe, an occasion of unfeigned sorrow to the people of both the European and the American continent.

It will be but a futile task to speculate on the nature of the accident (if accident it is) when authentic information is probably so near at hand—whether it occurred on board the Great Eastern, or whether it resulted from entanglement with some unobserved substance in the Atlantic—such as a semi-buoyant wreck—after it was payed out, or whether it got athwart some pinnacle of rock at the bottom, and was chafed bare. It seems probable, however, from the data furnished us by experienced electricians, that the flaw was not discovered on board the Great Eastern until an hour or two at least after it had become submerged, and that in the attempt to recover it, the rope parted. The strain upon the wounded part in such deep water must have been enormous, if, as is supposed, the distance between it and the ship was several miles. But, whatever the cause of the failure, it seems but too certain that about 1,230 miles of the cable lie for the present useless at the bottom of the Atlantic. We may be permitted to hope, however, that no tidings that will be brought to us will demonstrate the impracticable nature of the undertaking, but only a lack of good fortune in the present attempt.

The success of the enterprise, we hope, is only deferred for a few months, not ultimately defeated. It is calculated that six hundred miles of the submerged cable may be recovered by the process of underrunning from Valentia, and the Great Eastern will bring home about six hundred miles more unused. About two-thirds of the requisite length may therefore be regarded

as available for the future, leaving a little above a third to be manufactured afresh. Englishmen, it is said, never know when they are beaten. We trust they will illustrate the saying in the present instance. Every failure may be regarded as a step towards success, for the lessons taught by it go towards making up that sum of scientific and practical knowledge which at last achieves the end. The object in view is so magnificent in its promise, and the attempts of securing it have been carried to such an extent, that we cannot suffer ourselves to doubt that the project will be completed.

The topics of consolation, however, do not readily start into view in the contemplation of such a disaster as this. They lie a long way beneath the surface, and require time and subsequent experience to bring them to light. They are numerous enough, we doubt not, if we could but discover them, and at some future period it is likely enough that what now exhibits itself to us as an unlucky chance may be regarded as a highly fortunate circumstance. But the truth is, consolation is not the thing called for on an occasion like the present. The evil, such as it is, has to be faced with manly determination. "Try again" is the most fitting counsel to be propounded to the promoters of the scheme—"try again," and, of course, this advice implies on the part of those who urge it a willingness to share to some extent in the risk. We have not the least fear that this willingness will be lacking. There is a superabundance of capital in the country. There is some patriotism. And there is a national impatience of being foiled in any truly great undertaking. And so we hold it as a moral certainty that as the present is not the first, neither will it be the last attempt to link together the two hemispheres by means of a submarine cable. What is done, is done, and cannot by any amount of lamentation be undone. It must be forgotten as soon as may be in the energy called forth by a fresh enterprise. Our eyes must be averted from the past, save to profit by the instruction it yields. Our feelings should become chiefly intent upon and interested in the future. Let repinings cease as soon as possible, and let the British public help and cheer on those who will strive to make us forget past failures in future success!

THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

THE cattle murrain is now running its course throughout the country. It is described as a species of typhoid fever, analogous to, if not the same as, the disease which has of late years prevailed so extensively in Russia, Austria, and the eastern parts of Europe. It has now been brought over into England by infected animals. Its extraordinary fatality is indicated by the fact that out of 159,476 cattle attacked by the disease in Russia during last year, more than a hundred thousand died. In Egypt the ravages of the disease appear to have been even more extensive. Considering the great severity of the plague, and the long time it has been prevalent on the continent, it is surprising that our information as to its nature and characteristics is not more complete, and that measures for excluding it, if possible, from this country have not long ago been more stringent and systematic. But we know enough to be conscious that this virulent disease may involve us in a great national calamity. It is barely a week since the public heard of the progress which this terrible scourge was making in our metropolitan dairies, and of the necessity for prompt and decisive measures to arrest it. But the contagious poison was already at work amongst our herds, and our very facilities of communication helped to spread it far and wide. From the Central Cattle Market, at Islington, weekly fed by beasts imported from Holland, Denmark, and Russia, has gone forth the insidious disease to our agricultural districts, and it is now reported that the murrain prevails more or less in Middlesex, Essex, Surrey, Suffolk, Norfolk, Leicestershire, Shropshire, Northumberland, and even in Roxburghshire, on the other side of the Tweed.

For this fatal distemper there seems to be no effectual antidote of universal application. Professor Simonds can only recommend "a free use of stimulants, conjoined with antiseptic agents." Whether inoculation as is practised at Natal for the lung disease of cattle, or homoeopathy skilfully administered, would be a successful specific, is not likely to be properly tested. When once the disease is fully established eighty per cent. of the cattle attacked die off—their whole vital powers being consumed by the fatal fever. But in this case "prevention is better than cure." Clamorous demands have been made upon the Government for their prompt intervention. But after all the Executive can do but little. They can indeed, rigorously prevent the importation of fresh diseased cattle, they can put in force

all the regulations which the law allows, stimulate the zeal of inspectors, and enforce the penalties against nuisances. They can also publish information and instruction. All this they have done. But it remains for agriculturalists and cattle-owners to combat the disease themselves by isolating their new stock till sufficiently tested, promptly keeping apart and destroying all diseased animals, and using all sanitary precautions. If the wholesome alarm which now prevails is embodied in active measures, if mutual insurance societies are formed without delay in the rural districts to indemnify those who destroy infected stock, there is reason to hope that the plague will be exterminated with far less loss to the agricultural interest than in countries where the farmers look mainly to the Government for help and where publicity less prevails than in England.

We are all of us feeling the effect of this sudden calamity in the enhanced price of animal food, which, if the disease continues to spread, must before long reach so high a rate as materially to limit consumption, and impair the vigour of the people. For some years past, owing to the increasing prosperity of the country, the price of meat has been steadily advancing, not less to the serious disquietude of persons with large families in moderate circumstances, than of the humbler classes of the community. The pressure is now likely to be more keenly felt, and will be aggravated by the scarcity of milk which must follow the destruction of stock, and a concurrent rise in all other articles of food. The food prospects of the country during the coming winter, with the probability of a moderate wheat harvest, are not very flattering. But if wisely dealt with, present scarcity and calamity may eventually be productive of good results. The English people have much to learn in the way of the economical use of the resources they have by better cookery. "At present," as the *Examiner* says, "we consume more meat than any other population a third more numerous, and to the very worst effect as regards health, enjoyment, and economy. Our meat makes a great show in the butchers' bills, but how does it figure on the table? In nine kitchens out of ten there is a destroyer ravaging with fire like a conqueror." Numerous official reports indicate how inadequately we avail ourselves of the abundance which the seas encircling our coast are adapted to supply. We are only beginning to cease polluting our rivers and poisoning the fish, while the wealth of food with which the fisheries of Ireland might supply is to a great extent lost by want of enterprise, capital, and intelligent combination.

The cattle murrain has come to teach us not only how to develop and economise, but how to augment our food resources. An attempt was lately made to introduce South American charqui into our market, but it failed, though the price was low, not because the meat was unpalatable or wanting in nutriment, but from popular prejudice, and the dishonesty of speculators in the article. Still the fact remains, that wholesome animal food can be obtained in a dried state in any quantities from the prairies of Chili and Buenos Ayres. Similar supplies, but of better quality, might be drawn from Australia, where herds of well-fed beasts, trained with as much care as in England, abound, but are of no account in that land of abundance. May not the wasted surplus of our colonies be made available at home? "An ex-Australian" declares that excellent cured beef from Sydney, in any quantities, could be sold in the English market at from fourpence to sixpence a pound, and needs only enterprise and capital to be made a profitable speculation. This particular suggestion may or may not be practicable, but the increasing price of meat is a serious public question which demands the consideration of all who have at heart the physical welfare of the population.

TAKING AIM.

It is recorded of Mr. Winkle (or of some sportsman resembling that gentleman sufficiently to excuse us for confounding them together) that on a memorable occasion, when he went out shooting, he simultaneously raised the gun to his shoulder, and closed both his eyes. Further, that he was naturally much surprised and gratified at being told, after he had pulled the trigger, and recovered from the kick and the report of the instrument of destruction, that a brace of fine partridges, which the keeper at that moment picked up, really belonged to him, and had fallen under his fire. Most of us have witnessed once or twice in the course of our lives similar instances of good fortune as unexpected and undeserved—silent stupidity promoted to the chair of wisdom, a blunder mistaken for a bright inspiration of genius. Or we may have doubted sometimes whether the successful performer's deprecatory remark, "Mair by chance

than gude guidin'," was not due to his modesty rather than his want of merit; and sometimes whether his critics were not led by unconscious jealousy or disappointment very unjustly to set down his happy stroke as a pure accident, or "fluke."

Making allowance for a few rare and singular exceptions, very little good is done in this world, we believe, by efforts made carelessly and at random. There was truth, surely, in the old pagan maxim, that "the gods sell all things to us for labour." That which seems to cost nothing to-day, has had its price paid at some earlier time. As we listen to the improvised eloquence of a practised public speaker, or enjoy the convulsions of wit which seem to play spontaneously round some of the most natural and easy movements of a highly cultivated mind, we are apt to forget the long seed-time of which these are the fruits,—how thorough and varied have been the studies in the latter case, and how frequent and careful the preparations for earlier efforts in the former. The present Archbishop of Dublin, in a volume of poems which he published twenty-seven years ago, expresses this idea somewhat happily in a comparison which our readers will perhaps thank us for borrowing:—

When heaped upon the altar lie
All things to feed the fire,
One spark alighting from on high,
The flames at once aspire.

But these sweet gums and fragrant woods,
Its rich materials rare,
By tedious quests on lands and floods
Had first been gathered there.

There are some intellectual performances, indeed, to which Dr. Trench's illustration does even less than justice. A mind may be abundantly stored, and its wealth excellently well arranged, and yet opportunity after opportunity pass by while no use is made of these "rich materials," and no "flames at once aspire." To discriminate occasions promptly and accurately, to combine thoughts rapidly, to say the right word at the right time and in the right manner, these are attainments at least as valuable as any quantity of ideas or information laid by in the memory. Many words and actions which seem as unconscious of any actual aim or preparation as Mr. Winkle's lucky shot, are, in fact, the outcome of much experience and toil. We travelled yesterday in company with a young volunteer who made us aware, a little plaintively, of the fact that "you are not allowed to fire at all till you have attended thirty drills." Think of that, O you Englishmen who sit at home at ease! On thirty separate days these brave and indefatigable defenders of your country and your hearth submit their feet and their shoulders, their eyes and their very fingers, to a discipline which is all to be gone through before they even begin making experiments in target practice! Yet the use of the rifle requires, after all, the fulfilment of fewer arduous conditions than some uses of the understanding. If we wish to image to our minds the processes which in part precede and in part accompany the labours of a barrister who is engaged in several distinct causes, one after the other, or of a physician who has to bring the energies of his mind to bear on a yet longer list of separate cases consecutively, or of a debater in the House of Commons who is ready and efficient in reply, we may find, perhaps, a suggestive parallel in the action of the rifleman as he brings his gun into position, and as he looks over the "sights" and takes almost instantaneously an aim which will give him "a centre." But then we must throw in a good deal besides the mere act of taking aim. The marksman's bodily condition, the drills he has attended, the construction and present state of his rifle, the very quality of the ammunition he employs—these, taken all together, form but an imperfect and partial similitude for the complex phenomena which innumerable single efforts of the human mind daily imply.

It is not by any means only in the callings known conventionally as the professions, that the necessity arises for collecting as it were into a focus both the present living energies of the mind, and more or less of the accumulated resources due to past diligence, or to habits long since acquired. The railway officials who watch over signals and "points" when trains are expected; the men of the fire-brigade, who lounge for hours round the engine-house till a sudden alarm sends them off like a flash of lightning to the spot where their interposition is needed; the buyers of corn and of cotton, who, without perhaps wishing to dabble in hazardous speculations in the least, are nevertheless compelled, by the nature of their commodity and its fluctuations in price, to keep a very vigilant eye on the changes of the market; by these and by many others a very large portion of life is spent in a posture of mind very much like making ready to present and to fire, or like keeping well on the alert till the next occasion shall arise for "taking aim." Yet, however large this class may be made to appear,

those who belong to it are the minority. The great bulk of the work done in this world is not done by flashes, nor by any species of detached single exertions. There are probably not a few excellent and admirable people now living who have never once congratulated themselves on having gained any particular point on which they had set their mind, aiming to accomplish it. If the intellectual and moral forces which exist be compared to fire, it is only comparatively a small proportion of these forces which exhaust themselves in a way of concentrated expenditure, as if in the act of exploding in the chamber of a rifle, or carrying a ball. It is no doubt an absolute necessity of some mental constitutions and endowments that they should rise thus to max, or not come into their best operation at all, and it would not be fair to say that these fill as small a place relatively as the explosive or suddenly igniting properties of combustible material in the applications of fire. But the steady action of the furnace, without which all our machinery would stand still, and the quieter but as important part which the common household coal plays in every English home, are perhaps not too strong a type of the value of those powers of discerning and judging and contriving, sometimes very great as well as sometimes very moderate, which act tranquilly and constantly without either being at any time extinguished or rising at any time to a very luminous effulgence, or a very high degree of heat. Of very many of the persons one meets with, it is scarcely, if at all, true, that it is their business to bend their whole strength towards any single aim. Their duty lies rather in doing justice in a great many objects than in confining their attention to one. Even viewed in relation to the moral ends of existence, many principles have to be considered. They are to be veracious as well as devout, and kind as well as honest, and their obligations of love, and errands of mercy, take in now among strangers, and now among their own children and servants and friends. Industry and conscientious intelligence, a good head and a good heart, may surely set a man, in any situation in life, in useful, happy relations to the little world about him. The simple habit of keeping good sense and good temper in contact with the common calls and incidents of life as they recur, is by no means inconsiderable, and a benefit to society not to be despised.

It will perhaps be said that, at all events, every situation in life has some special requirements, and that it is a great misfortune to any man, and a serious waste of power, if he is so ill-suited to his place in society as to be in a false position. Our reply to this remark would be, that we venture to think there are very few men indeed in a false position who might not, if they would, have made it a true position,—beneficent to others, and on the whole satisfactory to themselves. At the risk of a too long quotation, we will extract here a few sentences from the autobiography of the late Sir Benjamin Brodie, which seem to us to convey very sound opinions on the much-vexed subject of the choice of a profession:—

Others have often said to me that they supposed that I must have had, from the first, a particular taste or liking for my profession. But it was no such thing; nor does my experience lead me to have any faith in those special callings to certain ways of life which some young men are supposed to have. For the most part, these are mere fancies, which are liable to give way to other fancies with as little reason as they themselves first began to exist. Such persons take the *ignotum pro magnifico*; and when they find that the *magnifico* is not equal to their expectations, they as readily fly to something else. The persons who succeed best in professions are those who, having (perhaps by some accidental circumstance) been led to embark in them, persevere in their course as a matter of duty, or because they have nothing better to do. They often feel their new pursuit to be unattractive enough in the beginning; but as they go on, and acquire knowledge, and find that they obtain some degree of credit, the case is altered; and from that time, they become every day more interested in what they are about.

Sir Benjamin Brodie would not, we suppose, have denied that there are every now and then to be met with, men whose genius sets upon them a mark and a designation which it is impossible to ignore,—born geometers, like Pascal, and born musicians, like Mozart. Leaving these out of account, we believe it matters very little indeed, as far as his own vague preferences are concerned, what calling is selected for a lad when he leaves school or college. The selection may be a very anxious one on other grounds, but there need be no over-solicitude to persuade the boy himself to choose. The sphere which he will by-and-by fill, if he ever fill it well, must in any case shape itself gradually to him, and he gradually be moulded to it. But in order to this, there is no necessity whatever that he should either be filled beforehand with an ardent predilection for his future calling, or be put through a course of schooling especially adapted to prepare him for it.

It is infinitely more important that his educators should aim simply at developing his whole nature, as vigorously and in as fully proportioned a manner as possible, and that he on his part should begin life not ambitious to shine, or to be rich, but aiming at that highest type of life in this world—a well-bred, well-informed Christian Englishman, loving God and his neighbour, and doing his duty faithfully and well in whatever circumstances he is placed.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

Admiral Willaumes has been nominated Senator. The report of the committee appointed under the presidency of the Empress to inquire into the penitentiary system adopted with young convicts in the department of the Seine has been published. It decides against the course of treatment pursued in La Roquette prison, and in favour of the agricultural colony system.

The *Pays* of Monday evening says:—"Yesterday Baron von Werther transmitted to Count von Mensdorff-Pouilly new proposals from Herr von Bismark with regard to the Duchies. The proposals bear the character of a definitive decision on the subject."

At the distribution of prizes at the Sorbonne, M. Duruy made a speech, in which he announced that the works of the future laureates for the general competition of 1867 sent in from Paris and the departments will be laid before the committee of the Universal Exhibition. He invited foreign countries to take part in this competition. Abd-el-Kader was present at the ceremony.

ITALY.

A telegram from Florence says that the Pontifical Government has rejected the demand of the Italian Government for the restitution of the political prisoners belonging to the former Pontifical provinces now united to Italy. This demand was supported by France, and its rejection will not tend to improve the relations between Rome and Paris.

Advices from Florence announce that the Italian Government has sent to Rome a list of six bishops, at present absent from their sees, whose return may be permitted without any danger either to themselves or to public order. In all probability those dignitaries will return during the present month. Similar measures will be adopted with regard to other bishops in the same position, so that before the end of the year the twenty-two prelates whose return was concerted between M. Vegezzi and Cardinal Antonelli will have all retaken possession of their sees.

The *Italia* of Florence has received letters from Rome which contradict the rumour, reproduced by many Italian and foreign journals, that there is an intention at Rome to formally affirm the necessity of the temporal power as a positive dogma. There were to be conferences of cardinals and prelates, but only to define secondary ecclesiastical questions, and above all to deliberate anew about the ulterior concessions which the Holy See might make in order to render possible an understanding with the Italian Government as to the vacant bishoprics.

PRUSSIA.

It is stated on reliable authority that the opinion delivered by the Crown lawyers upon the succession question in the Duchies contains the following conclusions:—

1. The Duke of Augustenburg has no right of succession to the whole or part of the Duchies, not only because his father renounced his rights of succession, and, besides, previously recognised all arrangements to be made relative to the order of succession, but also because succession by primogeniture cannot be shown to exist in the House of Augustenburg.

2. The claims of the Grand Duke of Oldenburg are only valid with reference to the Gottorp portion of the Duchies, in virtue of eventual reversionary rights.

3. The rights of King Christian IX., recognised by the law of succession of July 31, 1853, having been published and duly introduced in the Duchies, his Majesty's rights of succession must be considered as legally established, and these have been transferred by the Treaty of Vienna to Prussia and Austria.

M. Von Bismark, through his own organ, the *North German Gazette*, gives a revelation of his policy to the German Diet in unequivocal terms. Bavaria, Saxony, and Hesse-Darmstadt had given notice of an apparently proper question, touching the period when the constitutional Estates of Holstein are to be convoked, and in answer the Prussian Minister tells them almost in so many words that the question is impertinent and beyond the competence of the Diet; that Prussia does not want any assistance from them in governing the Duchies, and that they had better remain quiet and orderly, or otherwise their political existence may disappear with that of the Diet itself.

AUSTRIA.

Herr von Beust had a conference on Monday with the various representatives of German Governments in Vienna. He has been received by the Emperor of Austria.

The *Neue Freie Presse* of Monday asserts that Baron von Werther and Count von Mensdorff-Pouilly had come to an understanding yesterday, in accordance with which the possession of the Duchies should continue on a new basis, and the present

Commissioners, Herr von Habbhuber and Baron von Zedlitz, should be replaced.

The relations between Austria and Prussia have been, during the past week, so tender that the continental journals regard diplomatic rupture as very imminent, and there was a panic on the Vienna Exchange. The other day M. Bloome, the Austrian Minister at Berlin, was suddenly called to Vienna, and it was fully believed that relations had altogether been broken off. It turned out, however, that it was only to hold personal conference with M. de Menadorff, the Foreign Minister, that M. Bloome had returned to Vienna, and that he afterwards set out for Gastein with a view to further negotiations.

PORTUGAL.

The King opened his Cortes on Monday. He announces the restoration of friendly relations between England and Brazil, through the mediation of Portugal, and the approaching abolition of slavery in the Portuguese dominions.

AMERICA.

The advices from New York extend to July 26th.

The President has ordered the release of all the remaining Confederate military prisoners, including general officers, upon their subscribing to the oath of allegiance and giving paroles. The only remaining prisoners now in Fort Warren are Vice-President Stevens and Postmaster-General Regan.

Attorney-General Speed has declared that cotton or other property in the Southern States belonging to local or neutral owners, which has fallen into the possession of the Government, cannot, according to the Acts of Congress, be restored to such owners, except upon the decision of the Court of Claims as constituted by Congress.

The Navy Department has ordered the Atlantic squadron to be immediately reduced to ten and the Mississippi to five vessels.

Secretary Stanton has annulled all orders by the military commanders which impose restrictions upon the negro and do not apply to the whites as well.

The Government has determined to retain possession of Ford's Theatre, in Washington, and pay rent for it until the 1st of February. If by that time Congress shall not have authorised its purchase, it will be restored to its proprietors.

Provisional Governor Parsons, of Alabama, has issued a proclamation directing many of the county and town officers in his State elected under Confederate rule to continue to discharge their duties until relieved by a general election. He appoints the 31st proximo for the election of delegates to revise the State Constitution, and the 10th of September for the assembling of the delegates in convention.

Disturbances between returned soldiers and civilians have occurred recently in Philadelphia, Chicago, and other Northern cities, attended in each instance with loss of life.

The Connecticut State Legislature, previous to adjourning last week, adopted a resolution declaring that the United States Government ought never to recognise any Government imposed upon any nation on this continent by a European Power; also a resolution that the Government ought not to profess friendship towards nations which have sympathised with the Southern rebellion.

The majority of the secession candidates have been elected in Virginia.

Captain Wirty, the Confederate commandant of Andersonville Prison, is to be tried by a military court.

The New York Zouaves at Charleston have mutinied, and been disbanded. The officers have been sent to gaol and the men to Fort Sumter. The affair arose out of the late disturbances with the negroes.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

Advices received here from Peking announce that fresh edicts published in that city show that Prince Kung had not entirely recovered from his late disgrace. San Kolinsin has been killed in an engagement with the Nainfu rebels. Zseng-kurfen succeeds him. Bargevine has been captured near Amoy, while attempting to join the rebels. He is detained prisoner by the Viceroy at Foochow. The silk and tea trades have opened briskly at Shanghai and Foochow.

Intelligence from Japan announces that commercial affairs are progressing satisfactorily. The Tycoon had determined to attack Prince Nagato, and had reviewed 100,000 troops. It was rumoured that Prince Satsuma intended to join Nagato.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Accounts have been published of the investment of the Bey of Tunis with the Order of the Bath.

Mr. J. S. Mill, M.P., has been made a Doctor of Philosophy by the University of Vienna, on the occasion of its celebrating its 500th anniversary.

The Princess Dagmar, with the Queen of Denmark, will most likely go to St. Petersburg on a visit for a month to the Imperial family of Russia.

King Victor Emmanuel has arrived in the Alpine valley of Aosta, where he means to spend the whole of August.

SLAVERY IN CUBA.—A Madrid letter, of July 30th, says:—"The question of slavery in Cuba has lately been occupying the attention of the Madrid press.

The *Democracia* has published a scheme proposed by Senor Orense for the immediate abolition of slavery in the Spanish colonies. An equally radical project has been put forward by the Marquis of Albaida. This would declare slavery abolished in all the Spanish provinces of the New World, indemnifying the slave-owners by a paper issue created for that purpose, bearing no interest, and redeemable within a certain number of years. The produce of the national property in Cuba and Puerto Rico might be dedicated to this purpose, and would suffice, in the opinion of the marquis, to liquidate the new debt."

THE TREATMENT OF THE NORTHERN PRISONERS.—The special correspondent of the *Times* has convinced himself by careful inquiry that the stories of the treatment of the Northern prisoners by the South were true. He has seen and conversed with victims of the South, and believes that in the Libby prison, close to Mr. Davis's house, the prisoners were literally starved, that boxes of food were sent by their friends, but the authorities refused to distribute them, and "the prisoners died from hunger in sight of plenty." At Andersonville, 15,000 Northern prisoners lie buried, all dead of fever and hunger, having been kept "on a piece of land without even a tent to cover them, with a tropical sun beating on their heads, and without food enough given them to keep a dog alive." It is for permitting this, which he could have stopped by an order of two lines, that, says the writer, the North hungers for the execution for Mr. Davis.

THE ABYSSINIAN CAPTIVES.—LATEST NEWS.—Our correspondence from the Red Sea reports no change in the prospects of the mission at Massowah. Mr. Rassam was still there, but no reply had been received from King Theodorus. A Mahomedan native of Abyssinia, lately arrived from Massowah, states that King Theodorus had gone on a third expedition to Shoa, leaving the prisoners at Magdala. He also reports that, some months ago, a messenger, to whom Mr. Rassam had given sixty dollars to convey a letter to Captain Cameron, was seized on the road with the letter, and carried before the King, who forthwith ordered one of his hands and feet to be cut off; that one hand was actually severed at the wrist, when the King relented, and not only remitted the rest of the punishment, but expressed regret at having been so hasty in his anger, and further presented the unfortunate man with 1,000 dollars.—*Pall-Mall Gazette*.

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL DEBT.—It appears from authentic statements in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* that the Federal debt, as it stood on the 31st May, rendered into English money and in round sums, stood as follows:—

Debt bearing interest in coin (5 and 6 per cent.	£240,000,000
Debt bearing interest in legal money greenbacks, 5 and 7 3-10 per cent.	227,000,000
Debt on which interest has ceased	170,000
Debt bearing no interest (greenback and postal currency)	102,000,000
Total	£569,170,000

This represents the total indebtedness of every kind then known to the Government, the annual interest being about 26,000,000*l*. But, besides this, there were at the time outstanding liabilities, of which the amount is for the present uncertain. To provide a margin for these, Mr. Walker, the American financier, adds a sum of 80,000,000*l*. to the existing debt, which will bring the total debt, when it shall have attained its maximum, to nearly 650,000,000*l*.—a sum which he thinks there is no reason to suppose will ever be exceeded.

MISERY AND DESTITUTION IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.—Through large districts, families bred in comfort are living on corn food; there is not a horse that can trot ten miles, nor a farming utensil to be bought, or money to buy it with, and few young men left. An English barrister who has just been spending some weeks in Virginia, and went there with strong Northern feeling, has come back almost converted to the cause of the South, owing to what he saw of the frightful condition of the people. They are completely broken down, and in spite of the consideration that they brought it on themselves, it is impossible not to pity them. In Virginia the feeling of hostility to the Washington Government appears to continue as bitter as ever, and is more bitter than in any other part of the South, while South Carolina takes the lead in seeking reconciliation, and in encouraging Northern immigration. Two commissioners from this State are now here in New York, sent on by the governor to beat up for farmers and labourers to go down there, where an abundance of land can be had for a trifle. In Virginia there is at present amongst many of the planters a bitter determination not to sell land to Northerners, but all the calmer ones acknowledge that this cannot last—that the laws of trade will, before very long, assert their sway, and that the planters cannot, in their present condition, hold on to the large tracts now in their hands, but will dispose of what they can neither clear nor cultivate. As regards the cotton States generally, it may be said that everything goes to show that the people are calm and resigned, and really long for a quiet life, and are applying themselves to free labour with a very philosophic spirit, but there is clearly no part of the South in which the admission of the negroes to political equality would not be very exasperating, if not unendurable. This is clearly a tremendous question.—*Correspondent of Daily News*.

ALPINE CLIMBING.

ACCIDENT ON MONTE ROSA.

A fatal accident occurred on Monte Rosa on Thursday, the 27th of July. Two young Englishmen (Messrs. H. T. and J. F. Bailey), two guides, and three porters, were ascending the mountain, when, on what is called the Saddle, the whole party were swept away by an avalanche. One of the brothers writes:—"After a walk of about seven hours and a half we were ascending a steep snow slope (the top of which is called the Saddle, about two hours and a half from the summit), when suddenly we heard a crack above us, and the whole side of the mountain appeared immediately to be turned into an avalanche (as, in fact, it was), and in less than half a minute we were all more or less buried, excepting two guides, who kept themselves above it by most miraculous activity. They succeeded in extricating Harry and me, after which we managed to dig out the other guide. One of the porters, when extricated from the snow, was insensible, and recovered with difficulty, but the body of another of the porters was not found till the next day, buried six feet deep in the snow. It is said that his back was broken, so that death must have been instantaneous." The weather was very unfavourable to the ascent, but, fortunately, the party were not roped together. In giving the particulars of this accident, the Rev. Joseph M'Cormick, who is about leaving Zermatt, the term of his chaplaincy having expired, says:—"Short as it has been, no less than six deaths have taken place through mountain-climbing, and twice I have had to go on most anxious expeditions—once when two gentlemen coming down from the Riffl were overtaken by night and lost their way in the wood; the other time, when a solitary attempt was foolishly, but for a noble purpose, made to scale a portion of the Matterhorn."

THE MATTERHORN CATASTROPHE.

Mr. Edward Whymper, the sole surviving Englishman of the party who ascended the Matterhorn on the 10th of July, has, at the suggestion of the President of the Alpine Club and others, sent an account of the late deplorable accident to the *Times*. It seems that there were at first two parties—Mr. Whymper and Lord Francis Douglas being one, and the Rev. Charles Hudson and Mr. Hadow the other. They united their forces to make the ascent of the virgin peak, taking two guides, Michael Crox and Peter Taugwalder, with the two sons of the latter as porters. Mr. Whymper says:—"My rope alone was used during the expedition, and there was—first, about 200 feet of Alpine Club rope; second, about 150 feet of a kind I believe to be stronger than the first; third, more than 200 feet of a lighter and weaker rope than the first, of a kind used by myself until the club rope was produced." By twelve o'clock on the day of ascent they had reached an elevation of 11,000 feet, and spread their tent; but Crox and the elder of Taugwalder's sons went on to look what was above, in order to save time on the following morning. They brought back a report that as far as they had gone they had seen nothing but that which was good, and asserted positively that had the party gone on with them on that day, they could have ascended the mountain, and returned to the tent with facility. The evening was very happily spent, till each retired to his blanket-bag. Before daybreak on the 14th they recommenced the ascent. About ten o'clock they had reached to a height of some 14,000 feet, and then began the most difficult part of the enterprise—the scaling of the great peak.

The general slope of the mountain at this part was less than 40 deg., and snow had consequently accumulated and filled up the irregularities of the rock face, leaving only occasional fragments projecting here and there. These were at times coated with a thin glaze of ice, from the snow above having melted and frozen again during the night. Still, it was a place over which any fair mountaineer might pass in safety. We found, however, that Mr. Hadow was not accustomed to this kind of work, and required continual assistance; but no one suggested that he should stop, and he was taken to the top. It is only fair to say that the difficulty experienced by Mr. Hadow at this part arose, not from fatigue or lack of courage, but simply and entirely from want of experience. Mr. Hudson, who followed me, passed over this part, and, as far as I know, ascended the entire mountain without having the slightest assistance rendered to him on any occasion. Sometimes, after I had taken a hand from Crox or received a pull, I turned to give the same to Hudson, but he invariably declined, saying it was not necessary. This solitary difficult part was of no great extent, certainly not more than 300 feet high, and after it was passed the angles became less and less as we approached the summit; at last the slope was so moderate that Crox and myself detached ourselves from the others, and ran on to the top. We arrived there at 1 40 p.m., the others about ten minutes after.

They remained on the summit of the Matterhorn about an hour. No one showed signs of fatigue, and they were arranging what they should do that night on their return to Zermatt. Mr. Whymper and Mr. Hudson anxiously consulted together as to the best means of effecting the descent.

We agreed that it would be best for Crox to go first, as he was the most powerful, and Hadow second; Hudson, who was equal to a guide in sureness of foot, wished to be third; Lord F. Douglas was placed next, and old Taugwalder, the strongest of the remainder, behind him. I suggested to Hudson that we should attach a rope to the rocks on our arrival at the difficult bit, and hold it as we descended as an additional protection. He approved the idea, but it was not definitely settled that it should be done. The party was being arranged in the above order while I was making a sketch of the summit, and they were waiting for me to be tied in my place, when some one remembered that we had not left our names in a bottle; they requested me to write them, and moved off while it was being done. A few minutes afterwards I tied myself to young Taugwalder and followed, catching them just as they were commencing the

descent of the difficult part described above. The greatest care was being taken. Only one man was moving at a time; when he was firmly planted the next advanced, and so on. The average distance between each was probably twenty feet. They had not, however, attached the additional rope to rocks, and nothing was said about it. The suggestion was made entirely on account of Mr. Hadow, and I am not sure it even occurred to me again.

I was, as I have explained, detached from the others, and following them; but after about a quarter of an hour Lord F. Douglas asked me to tie on to old Taugwalder, as he feared, he said, that if there was a slip Taugwalder would not be able to hold him. This was done hardly ten minutes before the accident, and undoubtedly saved Taugwalder's life.

Mr. Whympster then describes the fearful catastrophe that followed:—

As far as I know, at the moment of the accident, no one was actually moving. I cannot speak with certainty, neither can the Taugwalders, because the two leading men were partially hidden from our sight by an intervening mass of rock. Poor Crox had laid aside his axe, and in order to give Mr. Hadow greater security, was absolutely taking hold of his legs and putting his feet, one by one, into their proper positions. From the movements of their shoulders it is my belief that Crox, having done as I have said, was in the act of turning round to go down a step or two himself; at this moment Mr. Hadow slipped, fell on him, and knocked him over. I heard one startled exclamation from Crox, then saw him and Mr. Hadow flying downwards; in another moment Hudson was dragged from his steps and Lord F. Douglas immediately after him. All this was the work of a moment; but immediately we heard Crox's exclamation Taugwalder and myself planted ourselves as firmly as the rocks would permit; the rope was tight between us, and the shock came on us both as on one man. We held; but the rope broke mid-way between Taugwalder and Lord F. Douglas. For two or three seconds we saw our unfortunate companions sliding downwards on their backs, and spreading out their hands endeavouring to save themselves; they then disappeared one by one, and fell from precipice to precipice on to the Matterhorn glacier below, a distance of nearly 4,000 feet in height. From the moment the rope broke it was impossible to help them.

For the space of half an hour we remained on the spot without moving a single step. The two men, paralysed by terror, cried like infants, and trembled in such a manner as to threaten us with the fate of the others. Immediately we had descended to a safe place I asked for the rope that had broken, and to my surprise—indeed, to my horror—found that it was the weakest of the three ropes. As the first five men had been tied while I was sketching, I had not noticed the rope they employed, and now I could only conclude that they had seen fit to use this in preference to the others. It has been stated that the rope broke in consequence of its fraying over a rock; this is not the case, it broke in mid-air, and the end does not show any trace of previous injury.

For more than two hours afterwards I thought every moment that the next would be my last; for the Taugwalders, utterly unnerved, were not only incapable of giving assistance, but were in such a state that a slip might have been expected from one or the other at any moment. I do the younger man, moreover, no injustice when I say that immediately we got to the easy part of the descent he was able to laugh, smoke, and eat as if nothing had happened. There is no occasion to say more of the descent. I looked frequently, but in vain, for traces of my unfortunate companions, and we were in consequence surprised by the night when still at a height of 13,000ft. We arrived at Zermatt at 10:30 on Saturday morning.

With great difficulty and danger the bodies of Crox, Hadow, and Hudson, were found and recovered. Nothing was seen of the remains of Lord F. Douglas. It probably remains on the rocks above. Mr. Whympster adds:—

If the rope had not broken you would not have received this letter, for we could not possibly have held the four men, falling as they did all at the same time, and with a severe jerk. But, at the same time, it is my belief no accident would have happened had the rope between those who fell been as tight, or nearly as tight, as it was between Taugwalder and myself. The rope, when used properly, is a great safeguard; but whether on rocks, or whether on snow or glacier, if two men approach each other so that the rope falls in a loop the whole party is involved in danger; for should one slip or fall he may acquire, before he is stopped, a momentum that may drag down one man after another and bring destruction on all; but if the rope is tight, this is all but impossible.

THE CHOLERA.

News received at Trieste, from Smyrna, on the 28th July, states that 168 persons, of whom 124 were Jews, died of cholera between the 13th and 20th of July. On the island of Cyprus the cholera proved fatal in from forty to fifty cases daily. In Delos three persons had been attacked with cholera, and they were taken to the island of Ortygia.

The fright at Damascus is said to be great, for the cholera has never failed to be awfully destructive in that city. In 1848 sixteen thousand persons were carried off there in less than six weeks. The arrival of the pilgrims from Mecca is awaited with the greatest dread, and a commission has been sent out to stop them at some marches the other side of Suex, where if there be any appearance of cholera among them, they will be detained till they are free of the malady.

A Constantinople letter of the 26th ultimo gives a melancholy account of the state of things in that capital:—

The official report published yesterday states that 180 cases come under the cognisance of the Medical Board. In the face of this, many independent medical men with whom I have spoken are still of opinion that it has not yet assumed the type of veritable cholera, but only an aggravated form of cholera. Whatever it is, there is no doubt the destroying angel is among us. Now

that the enemy is in the camp, the authorities have commenced to bestir themselves. They have been seized with a sudden fit of spasmodic energy, which vents itself in all sorts of stupid and ridiculous regulations, many of which tend to produce unnecessary alarm, and others to aggravate the evil. Among others, the quarantine regulations, which at first (when caution was necessary) were lax to a degree, suspected vessels being allowed to anchor in the crowded harbour and hold communication with the shore by means of backsheesh, now that the disease is really here, are carried out with extreme severity. All vessels from suspected ports are stopped at the Dardanelles, which is a good arrangement, but the authorities have made no arrangements to provide for the reception or requirements of the crowds detained there, and the stories which reach this place of the suffering and misery of the unfortunate creatures are fearful. Many of the detained ships are crowded with passengers who had only provided food sufficient for the voyage, not reckoning on the detention, and are consequently dying of starvation; others are crammed into the filthy crowded Lazaretto, and are dying from suffocation and bad air. In the capital and villages of the Bosphorus the sale of nearly all kinds of vegetables, fruit, fish, and other articles of food has been prohibited, and hundreds of poor people, who depend upon the sale of these things for a livelihood, are likely to be ruined. One village on the Bosphorus, called the Yenikeni, has suffered so severely that all the principal inhabitants have quitted it, and the steamboats calling there have a place kept apart on the deck for the passengers embarking. The Viceroy, who left Egypt to escape the disease, is staying in Constantinople. I understand he has established a military cordon around his palace, and no one is allowed to approach him.

There are thirty cases reported in Valencia. A soldier has died of cholera in the hospital at Gibraltar; the man had lately been drafted from Malta to the garrison.

A telegram from Constantinople, of July 27, says:—"Cholera continues to spread, and the villages on the Bosphorus are now infected. A special medical commission has been organised. The daily average of deaths from cholera is 180."

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND FREEDMEN'S AID ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday evening, the 2nd inst., a public meeting of unusual interest was held in the Town Hall, Birmingham, under the auspices of the above association. Taking advantage of the meeting in that town of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, the committee resolved on consulting its heads as to the holding of such a meeting; the response was heartily and unanimously in sympathy; and, in addition to the usual announcements, they forwarded a platform ticket to every Wesleyan minister, with a reserved seat ticket to admit the members of each family in which a minister was a guest. The result was that probably nearly one-half the ministers composing the Conference were present on the occasion, on the platform, in the side-galleries, or in the body of the hall, while a very large number of the leading Wesleyans of the town and neighbourhood were also present. There was a very large audience. The chair was occupied by John Hartley, Esq., J.P., one of the largest employers in the district, and one of the most generous laymen in the Wesleyan connexion. The Birmingham daily papers devoted nearly three columns each to a report of the meeting. We cordially second the design of the Midland Freedmen's Aid Association by reporting the resolutions, with the influential names of the proposers and seconders, merely adding that they made most admirable speeches on the occasion, this remark especially applying to the addresses of the Rev. W. Arthur and the Rev. Bishop Jones, of the American Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Rev. R. W. Dale, of Birmingham. The Rev. H. T. Breay, of St. Matthias, opened the proceedings with prayer.

The first resolution, as follows, was moved by the Rev. Wm. Shaw, President, and seconded by the Rev. George Osborne, D.D., ex-President, of the Wesleyan Conference:—

That this meeting, while rejoicing in the fact that at the close of the late civil war in America, four millions of coloured people, formerly slaves, have become free, nevertheless views with prayerful concern and tender sympathy the distressing physical, social, and spiritual condition of these freed people, in their state of transition from bondage to liberty.

The Rev. William Arthur, M.A., proposed, and the Rev. Luke Wiseman seconded, the following:—

That this meeting, while rejoicing in the efforts made by the President and Government of the United States on behalf of the freedmen, especially in the appointment of Major-General O. O. Howard as head of the Bureau for freedmen's affairs, cordially sympathises in the objects and labours of the Freedmen's Associations formed in the United States, and in the fact that their co-operation is valued and invited by the American Government.

The third resolution was moved by Samuel Bowly, Esq., of Gloucester; seconded by T. B. Smithies, Esq., Editor of the *British Workman*; and responded to by the Rev. Bishop Jones, and the Hon. C. C. Leigh:—

That this meeting most cordially welcomes the Rev. Bishop Jones, of the American Methodist Episcopal Church—a great religious community whose sympathies are with the freedmen; and hereby tenders to him personally, and through him to the great community which he so worthily represents, and to all other their worthy associated and individual co-workers in this great cause in the United States of America, the expression of their kindest fraternal regards, accompanied by earnest wishes for their true welfare, and earnest prayer to Almighty God for speedy and complete success.

The concluding business resolution was as follows, moved by the Rev. R. W. Dale, M.A., and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Rigg:—

That this meeting most heartily rejoices in the formation of Freedmen's Aid Associations in America, Great Britain, France, and elsewhere;—at the fraternal spirit which pervades these bodies; and desires to see all philanthropists, and especially the various religious communities of this kingdom—including the Wesleyan Methodist Society, whose venerable and esteemed President and ex-President, with other ministers,

they welcome here to-night—throw the whole available weight of their piety, influence, and means, in co-operation with their American brethren, into the work of elevating the freed people—a work which worthily performed, must, by the Divine blessing, be productive of the best results, not only on the freedmen, and on the Government; and peoples of the two great nations mainly concerned—but on the world at large.

The resolutions were carried with great enthusiasm. Votes of thanks brought the proceedings to a close.

With the view of diffusing information, and exciting sympathy, and evoking pecuniary aid for the Freedmen, the committee have resolved to issue the speeches in a pamphlet form; and will be willing to send a copy free of any charge to persons applying to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. B. H. Cadbury, George-street, Birmingham.

REVELATIONS AS TO CONVICT LIFE.

At the Croydon Assizes, on Tuesday, a man named Jarvis, described as forty-three years of age, was indicted for feloniously stabbing and wounding one William Mose, with intent to murder him. Mr. Poland was for the prosecution. The prisoner was not defended by counsel; but he appeared to be a man of remarkable intelligence, and he defended himself. The prisoner was a convict under sentence of penal servitude, and at the time of the offence he was confined in the invalid convict prison at Woking, in Surrey. He is a cripple, and appeared unable to walk except on crutches, and he is incapacitated from doing hard labour; hence his removal to this prison. The prosecutor was a Scripture-reader who visited the prison; and on the 29th of June last, the prisoner being in the refractory cell for some breach of prison regulations, went to visit him. "How are you to-day, Jarvis?" said he. He replied, "I am very poorly indeed." The prosecutor sat down beside him and began quietly talking with him. "It is well," said he, "amid the sorrows, and gloom, and trouble of this life, to look above them to a brighter world." He had hardly finished these words when the prisoner shifted near to him, saying, "Yes, it is, it is," and in the act of saying these words, he stabbed him twice with a sharp weapon concealed in his hand. The prisoner was seized and searched, but the weapon could not be found, and when asked for it he said, "An angel brought it to me, and took it away again; and he (Mose) might have seen her standing by. If he dies to-morrow he will go to Heaven." At last, however, the instrument was found concealed in the cell, and it was produced in court. It was merely the blade of a small pocket-knife, without a handle. It was scarcely capable of inflicting a serious wound—in fact, it did not do much harm, and the chief injury was from the shock. The prisoner, when called upon for his defence, admitted the act, but disavowed any intention of inflicting any serious injury, declaring that, on the contrary, he had a great regard for the Scripture-reader, who, he said, had treated him kindly, and the reader, on his part, confirmed this, and stated that the prisoner had always treated him with every respect. The prisoner said he had committed the act only from the desire to have a public trial and make a public exposure of the horrors of the penal system, and he made a long address to the jury marked by very considerable ability and a great appearance of earnestness and truthfulness. This address, which occupied a great part of an hour, and was listened to with much interest, and which was, in fact, the remarkable feature in the trial, was to the following effect:—He said he had been sent to the Woking Prison, which had been called by *Punch* the Thieves' Palace, but which would, he said, more properly be called the Thieves' College. Those who went there, he declared, became ten times more the children of hell than they were before. The most horrible crimes, he said, were committed, and when complained of, not only were the offenders not punished but the complainants were persecuted. For some such complaint, he said, he himself had been put upon penal diet, and this was the origin of the ill-will with which he had been regarded there. He had complained, he said, of prisoners being robbed of their ration. He was brought before the directors, and sent to Millbank for nine months. He was examined, he said, by a medical man, Mr. Gay, who was a humane man, and said they could not punish him. After this he was sent to the prison at Woking, where, as he represented, the same spirit of persecution was pursued. The warden would not permit the windows to be put up, and when remonstrated with, said, "They will not be put up till I like"; and they were open, the prisoner said, for fourteen days and nights. The effect was that he had caught cold, and had contracted a disease. He complained to a warden, "I am ill, pray remove me"; but the warden said, "I shan't, you're only at your old games." "Shift me higher up," said the prisoner. "No," said the warden. For these complaints, he said he was charged with insubordination, and brought before the directors, who would not listen to him, and sentenced him to six months' penal diet. "They might as well sentence me," said the prisoner, "to death. I only had a pint of milk and twenty ounces of bread daily. I could not eat the potatoes. I was so weak I could not sit up, and they had to allow me a bed." He could not, he said, eat all the diet allowed—it was vegetable diet; but every other diet was refused him, and he became ill. When Mr. Guy saw him he ordered him better diet. He waited four weeks, however, when a director came to visit the prison, and then he complained to him, but he said he could not interfere. He applied, he said, over and over again for relief, but it was refused. He described the treatment he received, which, he said, imposed

the most painful persecution by night as well as by day. Prisoners, for instance, he said, were awakened up every two hours all through the night; the warders knocked at the cell doors, and if they did not get up, pulled them out of bed. It was worse, he said, than the dungeons of the Inquisition, and it drove him to desperation. He had "hurt the only man on earth he had loved," he said, and he had done it only to get a trial. He had taken care that the wound should not be serious. His only motive was to expose the ill-treatment he had received. He had been twelve years in a convict prison, and then had a ticket-of-leave for good conduct. Then, unfortunately, he got convicted again, and having been sent to Woking, he had suffered all this. "A worm," he said, "will turn if trodden upon, and so did I." There were many more who were suffering in the same way, and they wanted to let the public know what they had to endure. The man having finished his statement,

The learned Baron summed up the case to the jury, pointing out that the great question was as to the felonious intent charged, for there could be no question as to the charge of unlawfully wounding. The jury found the prisoner guilty of the minor charge only.

Mr. Poland then made a long statement from a paper compiled from the prison reports, which may be regarded as a kind of counter statement to the prisoner's; and like his own, was not, it will be observed, on oath. It appeared from this statement that the prisoner in 1849 was convicted of an offence, and sentenced to imprisonment for six months; and that he was convicted again in 1851, and sentenced to eighteen months. In October, 1853, he was convicted of forgery of a bank-note, and sentenced to twenty years' transportation. He was then sent to Dartmoor, and in 1856 he was said to have wounded a fellow-prisoner; but for this he was not tried. He was afterwards sent to Lewes, and in 1857 was said to have been insubordinate, and to have threatened to commit a similar offence; but for this also there was no trial, and so no legal evidence. From Lewes he was sent to Millbank, and there his conduct appeared to have improved, and in November, 1861, he got a ticket-of-leave. In May, 1862, he was again convicted of knowingly uttering a forged bank-note, and sentenced to six years' penal servitude, which was the sentence he was still undergoing. There had been, it was stated, since then, several instances of violent conduct.

The learned Judge, during the reading of the statement, inquired upon what evidence it was drawn up, and was told that it was made up from the prison reports. He then said that he should take time to consider his sentence.

On Wednesday, Jarvis, after a feeling address from the judge, was sentenced to five years' penal servitude, to begin from the present time. As the prisoner has two years of his previous sentence to fulfil, this is equivalent only to three years' penal servitude. Jarvis thanked the judge, and promised to attend to the kindly advice which his lordship had given him. The prisoner's apparent sincerity and intelligence made a very favourable impression on the court.

BATHS, LAUNDRIES, AND IMPROVED DWELLINGS IN GOLDEN-LANE.

An establishment comprising, in one large building, baths, laundries, and dwellings, together with some other advantages for the working classes, has been erected in Golden-lane through the enterprise of Mr. Vieweg, a public-spirited City warehouseman. It is placed in the midst of a very poor neighbourhood, bordering on the City, and on the populous parishes of St. Luke and Clerkenwell. Although the establishment has been in use long enough to prove it a success, the formal inauguration took place only on Friday last, when, on the invitation of Lord Shaftesbury, Mr. Alderman Lusk, M.P., and others, a meeting was held to make the public acquainted with this praiseworthy enterprise. Among those present were the Hon. A. Kinnaid, M.P.; Mr. J. I. Briscoe, M.P.; Mr. Hubbard, M.P.; Mr. Alderman Besley; Dr. Erasmus Wilson, the eminent surgeon; Mr. Robert Baxter; Mr. N. P. Simes; Mr. R. Taylor; the Rev. Robert Maguire; Mr. E. Horner; Mr. Vieweg, &c.

Mr. ROBERT BAXTER was called to the chair. He said he had come into the neighbourhood of Golden-lane some years ago on the invitation of a town missionary, and he there saw such a mass of misery and wretchedness as he desired never to see again. He now came by the invitation of Mr. Vieweg, and he was delighted and astonished at what he had seen. Mr. Vieweg had aimed at three things—improved dwellings for the working classes, and baths and wash-houses, and a dining-room for all persons. The improvement of dwellings for the humbler classes was a subject which pressed upon the consideration of all who had the welfare of those classes at heart. These dwellings must be made more comfortable and give greater accommodation, so that the residents might be enabled to live decently in all the relations of life, and not be overcrowded, and the rents must be such as working men could pay. There was no greater hindrance to the progress of society, and nothing more calculated to prevent the improvement in the condition of working men, than the present miserable houses in which they dwell. The next matter in connection with these buildings was one of cleanliness, and there had been constructed baths, private and swimming, at which that habit might be learned and improved, and which would render the evenings of the working classes more comfortable. The wash-houses would enable the poorer classes to remove their clothes from their houses, and to wash and dry them

at a very small expense; and beyond all this, Mr. Vieweg had aimed at benefiting the physical and spiritual wants of the humbler classes by erecting that large room in which they were assembled, where dinners would be provided upon the principle established at Glasgow; and by having painted on the walls of the building Scripture texts which would speak to the soul and moral nature of those who resorted to it.

The company then went over the building, which consists of a basement, ground, and four other floors. On the basement there are two large tepid swimming baths, first and second class. Here, also, is a large laundry, worked by steam machinery, and containing eighty washing compartments, with every convenience for drying, mangling, and so forth. On the ground floor there is the dining-hall, 70ft. by 30ft. The kitchens, too, are here. There are on this floor, also, 100 private baths, first and second class. Above are four floors, consisting of tenements for families of two rooms each, varying from 15ft. to 16ft. square. These are approached by several flights of fireproof staircases leading from the street. The roof consists of a series of extensive flats for purposes of recreation. A portion of the building has been set apart for a spacious chapel and school, capable of seating 600 or 700 persons. The water is supplied from a well sunk into the chalk under the premises, some 300 feet deep, and worked by a powerful steam-engine. One very striking feature in the arrangements is the way in which Scripture texts are everywhere inscribed about the building. On the reassembling of the company in the hall.

The Hon. A. KINNAID, M.P., was voted to the chair, and in resuming the proceedings briefly noticed the nature and character of the building. The importance of such an establishment in such a neighbourhood could not be too highly appreciated. The question was should they allow Mr. Vieweg to bear all the expense himself? (No.) Estimates were proverbially fallacious; Mr. Vieweg had expended more than he had proposed to do, and it was now desired to form a limited company, so that his friends and others might take shares or debentures to the extent of 10,000l. or 15,000l., and which would bear interest at five per cent. He might mention that since the building had been opened four months ago, about 60,000 persons had resorted to it, and the receipts had been upwards of 1,000l. He hoped that the public interest would be excited on behalf of these buildings, and that the requisite sum of money would be found. The overcrowded state of the dwellings of the humbler classes was one of the greatest evils of the day in this large metropolis. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. ROBERT MAGUIRE moved the first resolution, viz. :—

That the inferior and insufficient house accommodation and the want of baths and laundries for the labouring classes are the causes of many moral and domestic evils, and that it is the duty of all who are interested in the elevation of the condition of the labouring population to aid in providing more healthful and convenient houses and sanitary appliances.

The rev. gentleman said he could bear testimony, from his own knowledge of that locality, to the great want of these buildings, and he felt sure that not only the people around them, but also those of his own parish adjoining, would be socially and morally improved.

Mr. HORNER seconded the resolution, which was agreed to.

Mr. TAYLOR (of the Lambeth Baths Company) proposed the next resolution, namely :—

That this meeting fully recognises the philanthropy and disinterestedness of Mr. Vieweg in erecting the baths, laundries, and dwellings in Golden-lane, and being struck by the accounts before them of the profitable returns which they will yield on the capital expended, and the public advantage which would result from an extension of such establishments, suggest the formation of a joint-stock company to co-operate in these undertakings.

Dr. ERASMUS WILSON seconded the resolution.

The resolution was supported by the Rev. Dr. Doudney, and was then agreed to. Several other speakers followed. In answer to questions put by Mr. Briscoe, it was stated that the buildings had cost 37,000l., that there was a mortgage upon them for 13,000l. at interest at five per cent., and that it was proposed to form a joint-stock company to carry forward the work, and to raise the sum of 10,000l., which should bear interest at the rate of five per cent. next in priority to the interest on the mortgage debt. At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Lilwall, Secretary *pro tem.*, stated that letters had been received from several gentlemen who took a warm interest in the institution.

The number of patients relieved at the Hospital for Diseases of the Heart, 67, Margaret-street, Cavendish-square, was ninety-nine during the past week.

PRACTICAL PHILANTHROPY.—There is a Mr. G. M. Hicks somewhere in Bloomsbury, who, we take it, is about as sensible, kindly, and practical a philanthropist as exists in England. This gentleman and his wife have organised in Woburn-buildings, Clare-market, a daily dinner for sick children, who are provided in a pleasant room with a full and healthy meal. About twenty-five children, all rickety or cripples, or more or less ill, are here fed at twelve o'clock on good food, under the careful supervision of a matron, and amid pleasant sights and sounds. The effect on the children, half of whom are perishing for want of nourishment, is said to be extraordinary, and the entire cost of the place is under 237l. a year. One poor lad, says the *Builder*, had at first to be carried in a cripple, then hobbled in on irons, and now walks in, sickly but independent, the cure being mainly due to the food. —*Spectator.*

Court, Official, and Personal News.

DEPARTURE OF THE QUEEN FOR GERMANY.

Her Majesty, accompanied by the Princess Helena, Princess Louise, and Princess Beatrice, left Osborne yesterday at half-past one o'clock, for Woolwich, to embark for the continent. The royal party crossed the Solent to Gosport, and there took the train, which conveyed them to the very quay of Woolwich arsenal. A considerable number of persons were present. Her Majesty was cheered by the crowd with great heartiness; but, as a matter of course, her progress along the jetty was marked by silent respect on the part of those necessarily near her person. It was the universal remark that the Queen was looking better than she had looked for some time. There was an unconstrained cheerfulness in her manner as she smiled and bowed on either side. Her dress was entirely black, with the one slight relief, if such it can be called, of the one plain white crape cap.

At ten minutes past six o'clock p.m., the Queen embarked on board the Royal yacht *Alberta*, which was lying in readiness to convey her Majesty to the Victoria and Albert, off Greenwich. Continuing her voyage in the larger vessel this morning, her Majesty is now fairly on her way to Coburg, where she will spend a fortnight in retirement, surrounded by members of her family.

Earl Granville accompanies her Majesty as Minister in attendance.

The Prince and Princess of Wales returned to Marlborough House yesterday afternoon from Osborne.

Lord Palmerston has promised to open a Working Classes Industrial Exhibition at Bristol in the middle of September.

The *Morning Post* contradicts the reported marriage of Lady Mary Stanhope to Lord Stanley.

Mr. Thornton, her Majesty's Minister to the Argentine Republic, is appointed by her Majesty to proceed on a special mission to the Emperor of Brazil.

The post of Governor at Hong Kong, we hear, has been offered to and accepted by Sir Richard Greaves M'Donnell, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia.

Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston left town on Wednesday afternoon for Broadlands, Hants.

Mr. H. C. E. Childers will succeed Mr. F. Peel in the office of Secretary to the Treasury. Mr. Childers, who is one of the members for Pontefract, has been Junior Lord of the Admiralty since the resignation of Mr. Stansfeld, M.P. Mr. Peel has resigned from ill-health. Had this cause for his resignation not arisen, he would have been disqualified from holding the office on the meeting of Parliament, as the late election deprived him of a seat in the House of Commons.

The rumours which have been circulated in some newspapers as to a marriage between the Prince of Orange and an English Princess are said to be entirely without foundation. —*Court Circular.*

Sunday was the twenty-first birthday of Prince Alfred.

Abd-el-Kader, who has been visiting the lions of London, left London on Sunday for Paris.

A movement has been started by Mr. W. E. Gladstone's University Election Committee to present that gentleman with a testimonial.

Mr. Adam Black, late M.P. for Edinburgh, has declined to accept from a large number of his fellow-citizens a gift commemorative of their admiration of his private services and public worth.

Prince Napoleon has arrived at the Clarendon Hotel, London, from Ireland.

At a Cabinet Council on Monday, the meeting of the new Parliament was postponed till Wednesday, the 1st of November, and that of the new Convocation till the day following.

Law and Assize.

THE ALLEGED ATTEMPTED POISONING BY A SURGEON.—The trial of Mr. Sprague, a surgeon, charged with poisoning his wife, and her father and mother (Mr. and Mrs. Chalker), and the servant, Mary Jane Pidgeon, by introducing a deadly vegetable called atropine into a rabbit-pie, took place at Exeter Assizes on Tuesday. It appeared in evidence that on the day before the date mentioned in the indictment, Mrs. Chalker made a pie of a rabbit and a piece of beef, the rabbit being one of two which had been purchased during the week, one having been eaten. The piece of beef had been cooked during the early part of the week, and had been partaken of by the family. The remainder was then used to put into the pie. The servant, Mary Ann Pidgeon, put the pie into the oven; it was then taken out, placed in a cupboard to cool, and on the Sunday—the day after—it was consumed by the family at dinner. Every person who was in the house—except the prisoner, who was away—partook of the pie, and every person who did so was taken ill. The first person who suffered any inconvenience was the servant Pidgeon, who became very giddy about two o'clock, and next to her Mrs. Sprague complained. The next person taken ill was the lady who formed the subject of this indictment, and later in the day Mr. Chalker, her husband. Mr. Robert Tucker, solicitor, of Ashburton, produced a settlement made upon Sarah Chalker upon her marriage with the prisoner, to which he was an attesting witness, and from which it appeared that a sum of money was settled upon her, and in the event of her death without children it came to the

husband if the mother of his wife died previous to the daughter. Mr. Jervis, a surgeon, who was called in, at once declared that the parties had been poisoned, and the remainder of the pie was sent off to Mr. Herapath, who analysed its contents, and declared himself satisfied that it contained the poison called atropia. A contemporary remarks on the trial:—"It speedily became clear that a conviction had become impossible. There was proof that the pie had injured those who ate it, and proof that belladonna was in the pie, sufficient to dilate the pupil of Mr. Herapath's eye to twice its natural size—a result not conceivable from putridity. Consequently, somebody put poison in the pie, but there was no proof who did it. Mr. Sprague had nothing to gain by the death of his wife, unless she died after her mother; no other motive was suggested; and between the atropine in his surgery and the atropine in the pie there was no proof of connection. He was therefore acquitted." Dr. Ogle, of Clarges-street, makes a suggestion which may possibly throw some light upon the alleged poisoning at Ashburton. He says, and proves by quoting the result of experiment, that rabbits eat belladonna without injury, and suggests that Mr. Chalker's rabbit-pie may have been made of one which had just died off some dainty of that kind.

SHOOTING.—A case was tried at the Croydon Assizes on Saturday not unlike that of Mr. Debenham, the surgeon of the Commercial-road. A small farmer, named Stephen Winter, was charged with shooting at William Maynard. The prosecutor had gone with another man to gather watercresses, and they were busily engaged on a cross-bed on the farm of Winter, when he came up with a gun in his hand. He ordered Maynard to desist from pulling the cresses, and threatened to shoot him if he did not. No sooner was the threat made than Winter raised his gun and fired at the prosecutor, who was wounded about the arms and shoulders with shot. The defence was that Winter had suffered severely from piffers; that Maynard was stealing watercresses; and that the gun was fired simply to frighten him—Winter not being aware that it was loaded with shot. The jury acquitted the prisoner.

SAUSAGES FROM BAD MEAT.—A case of considerable importance to the public at the present time, when disease is so rife among cattle, has been decided at the Worship-street Police-court. Francis Cousins, a sausage-manufacturer residing at Homerton, was summoned by the authorities of Hackney parish on a charge of preparing bad meat for public sale. That the meat which was seized on the defendant's premises by the medical officer of health and the inspector of nuisances was unfit for food, was rendered clear beyond all dispute; but the defendant denied that it was his intention to use the meat. His witnesses averred that the meat was always subjected to examination before it was put in the machine, and that if tainted it was boiled down for pigs' food. The magistrate, however, in a careful decision, took a different view of the matter, and fined the defendant 5*l.* with costs. We hope the example will not be lost upon others.

Miscellaneous News.

MR. LOCKE KING'S MOTION.—On Monday evening Messrs. Locke King and Buxton, the newly-elected members for East Surrey, were entertained at a public dinner at Kingston-on-Thames. The proceedings were rendered specially interesting from the fact that Mr. Locke King announced his intention to bring forward a measure for a 20*l.* county franchise during the next session.

MR. THOMAS HUGHES, M.P.—The members of the Working Men's College, Great Ormond-street, met on Tuesday evening, last week, to congratulate Mr. Thomas Hughes, M.P., on his election for Lambeth. The Rev. F. D. Maurice presided, and amongst the speakers were Mr. Ruskin, Mr. Layard, and M. Louis Blanc. The meeting was of the most pleasant character. It demonstrated the kindly feeling which exists between Mr. Hughes and those whose welfare he has done so much to promote.

MUNICIPAL SAVINGS-BANK FOR WORKING MEN.—It is contemplated by the Bradford Town Council to introduce a bill into Parliament next session to give authority to establish (in accordance with the proposal of their town clerk), a municipal savings-bank, for small amounts, by means of which corporations and local Boards of Health may be empowered to borrow, in small deposits of shillings, such a sum as shall be sanctioned by Parliament or by one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, in the same way as loans are now sanctioned under the Local Government Act.

HOW FAULTS IN AN ELECTRIC CABLE ARE LOCALISED.—The public generally are so much awakened to an interest in the Atlantic cable, that it may perhaps be useful to have an explanation of a subject which has now become a popular difficulty—estimating the distance of a fault. For instance, the assertion that the first fault was at a certain distance from the Great Eastern was verified most accurately. The main principle upon which these assertions rest is very simple. It has been found that electricity, like any other fluid, will flow much easier through a large conductor than a small one, and that a few feet of a very fine wire presents as much resistance to its passage as a few miles of a larger wire. A number of coils of minutely fine wire are therefore constructed, and the resistance of each coil ascertained by direct comparison with as many miles of cable as are equal to it, an equal current being passed through both. If the whole

length of cable discharged at one end into earth equal a hundred resistance coils, then, we find suddenly the resistance decreased to fifty coils, we are right in assuming the cable to have a fault half way, or at any other proportionate distance. There are of course practical modifications in applying this principle, but by means of this and other indications combined, a very fair guess at the truth can be arrived at.—*Liverpool Post.*

CORK COUNTY.—Mr. Scully has raised an objection to the validity of the County Cork election, on the ground that the deputy-sheriff were not 50*l.* freeholders, as required by law.

THE KING'S COUNTY ELECTION.—We observe in the columns of a contemporary a statement that a sheet of a poll-book, containing some fourteen votes for Mr. Hennessey, had been omitted in the tot by the sheriff. We are requested to give this statement an unqualified contradiction; and to state that no danger exists of Sir Patrick O'Brien's seat being disturbed.—*Dublin Evening Post.*

THE LATE ELECTION RIOTS AT NOTTINGHAM.—A meeting of the Watch Committee of the Nottingham Town Council was held on Friday, when charges were made against Mr. Hedington, the chief constable, for mismanagement of the police force at the late election riots. The mayor occupied the chair; and, after hearing the accusations made, Mr. Councilor Dickenson advised the chief constable to resign, observing that there was a strong political feeling against that officer. This was denied; but the chief constable resigned, and the command of the police force was placed in the hands of Mr. Superintendent Raynor.

EXECUTION AT WINCHESTER.—John Hughes, the Portsmouth murderer, was executed in front of the county gaol at Winchester, at seven o'clock on Friday. Not more than 600 persons were present, nearly the whole of whom belonged to the lower orders. The convict exhibited great firmness. While Calcraft was making the usual preparations, the condemned man called the chaplain to his side, and requested him to write to his mother. This the rev. gentleman, of course, promised to do. The bolt was immediately withdrawn, and, though a powerful man, he died almost instantaneously.

FIVE YEARS DEAD AND STILL UNBURIED.—A most extraordinary case has just been brought to light at Olyton, Somersetshire. An eccentric character has actually in his possession at this present moment the unburied corpse of his mother, who died five years ago. When she died he had a leaden coffin made, with a glass plate let in, so as to show her face. This coffin he deposited in a shed, and from time to time goes there to look upon the face of his mother. The case affords the nearest parallel to the man in London, who kept the remains of his two wives in a similar way for many years in a bedroom in his house at Portland-place.

NON-EXPLOSIVE GUNPOWDER.—Mr. Gale seems really to have discovered the secret of making gunpowder non-explosive without injuring it. His process was tried at Wimbledon in the most conclusive way, a red-hot poker being stirred about in a bowl of gunpowder without the slightest explosion, while the same powder sifted from his mixture exploded freely. His process is simple, the powdered substance in which his secret consists being mixed with the gunpowder and then sifted out. The discovery will probably save thousands of lives, as it will be possible to store powder at the manufactories and on board ship in a non-explosive state, and sift it only when served out for actual use. Hitherto the most elaborate precautions have failed to prevent occasional accidents, and many large cities throughout the kingdom are in permanent and serious danger.

THE WELSH MEMORIAL TO THE PRINCE CONSORT.—On Wednesday, amid the rejoicings of the people of Tenby, Prince Arthur inaugurated the Welsh memorial to the Prince Consort in that town. The memorial consists of a statue to the late Prince, eight feet nine inches high, carved from a block of the finest Sicilian marble. It stands upon a pedestal eighteen feet high, and the pedestal rests upon a platform, at the top of three ranges of steps, forming a square of twenty-three feet and a half. The figure stands with the head uncovered and baton in hand, attired in field-marshal's uniform, and wearing the mantle and collar of the Order of the Garter. The artist is Mr. John Evan Thomas, a native of South Wales, and the work is spoken of as one of the finest specimens of the sculpture of our time. The likeness is very striking. An immense concourse of spectators was present at the ceremony, including the Prince of Leiningen, Bishop of St. David's, Lord Llanover, Mr. Lord Phillips, M.P., Colonel Stepney, Colonel Phipps, and others. In reply to the address that was read to him, Prince Arthur said:—

Mr. Mayor and gentlemen,—I hardly know how to thank you as I could wish for your kind address. How deeply it would have touched and pleased my dear mother, could she have been here herself, to witness, in the reception which I, as her son, have this day met with, the proof of the unshaken loyalty and affection of her Welsh subjects; and, above all, to trace in the noble work of art to be now uncovered such gratifying evidence of their reverence for the great and noble qualities of my beloved father and appreciation of his great public services! I shall never forget this day, nor your kind welcome; and I shall ever think with pride and pleasure of having been allowed, young as I am, to represent my dear mother on this most interesting occasion. (Great applause.)

"COMPENSATIONS."—The *Star* finds some curious revelations as to "compensations" in a recent blue-book. The Right Hon. the Earl of Ellenborough, who has held some of the highest offices in the gift of the Crown, continues to enjoy, as he has done for an

almost fabulous series of years, a pension of 7,700*l.* a-year as compensation for the office of chief clerk of the Court of Queen's Bench—a monstrous sum this for the relinquishment of a pure sinecure which was conferred on him for no other reason than that he was the son of his father, and which had no duties attached to it which a charity boy could not have discharged. Almost as bad is the case of Viscount Avonmore, the father of Major Yelverton, who, having once been registrar of the Irish Court of Chancery, draws an annual pension of 4,199*l.* 19*s.*; or almost as much as the salary of a Cabinet Minister. What, again, has the Rev. Thomas Thurlow done that, as Keeper and Clerk of the Hanaper, he should receive 4,028*l.* per annum, and an additional 354*l.* as compensation for the abolished office of Prothonotary in the Court of Pleas, Durham? The same individual is put down in a foot-note for the sum of 7,352*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* as Patentee of Bankrupts—a novel sort of sinecure. Another "compensation" for the loss of the office of Prothonotary in the Court of Common Pleas is paid to one Thomas Hudson, the amount being 2,034*l.* 1*s.* John Holdship was formerly "Chief Wax" of the Court of Chancery, and is the recipient of 1,085*l.* 11*s.*

PRESENTATION TO MR. W. LAWSON, AT CARLISLE.—On Wednesday night, a crowded meeting of the non-electors of Carlisle was held in the Athenæum, in that city, to present an address to Mr. Wilfred Lawson, late M.P. for that city. The chair was taken by Mr. T. Hardy, a working man. Another working man presented the address, which was engrossed on vellum. It expressed regret that Mr. Lawson had lost his seat, but after an extension of the franchise, expected an opportunity of again pressing him into the public service. Mr. Lawson, who was received with most enthusiastic cheers, the whole audience, numbering about 800, standing up and waving hats, made a lengthy speech in reply. Life, he said, was too short to afford much time to spend in lamentations over misfortunes, however great, and if he had been inclined to indulge in lengthened repining over his political disaster, the action of the non-electors would have removed from his mind unnecessary regrets. (Cheers.) Although legally and technically he had lost the election, he believed that virtually and morally the confidence of the citizens was reposed in him. (Cheers.) Mr. E. Potter, M.P., afterwards addressed the meeting. He urged the non-electors to urge their own claims; and he recommended them strongly not to try for a measure of reform not attainable within eighteen or twenty years. Some of them were in favour of manhood suffrage and some in favour of household suffrage, but he did not think, in the present state of public opinion, any such measure could be carried. Therefore he put it to them whether it would not be better to support a reform Ministry in getting the best bill they could get. (Cheers.) Other speeches having been delivered, the meeting separated.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—At the last session for the academical year, held by the Council on Tuesday last, proceedings took place as follows:—Dr. Graily Hewitt was appointed to the offices of Professor of Midwifery in the College and Obstetric Physician to the hospital. It was resolved to institute in the place of the Professorship of Natural Philosophy and Astronomy two professorships—one of Mathematical Physics, and one of Experimental Physics; Dr. T. Archer Hirst was appointed to the former, Mr. George Garey Foster to the latter. Mr. John Robson, B.A., London, was appointed to the office of assistant-secretary. Mr. Charles Furtado obtained permission to repeat in the next session his courses of instruction in public reading and public speaking. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Tite, M.P., for his present of a beautiful model of the Royal Exchange, of which he was the architect, for the benefit of the class of architecture in the College. The acceptance by Dr. William Hodgson of the invitation to be examiner, in conjunction with Professor Whaley, for the Joseph Hume Scholarship in Political Economy, to be awarded in November next, was received. The Rev. Philip Smith was appointed examiner for the medical entrance examinations in September next. The resignation of Dr. Sharpe of the Professorship of Jurisprudence was tendered and accepted, and the vacancy was ordered to be advertised. The result of the class examinations of the Medical Faculty for the Summer Term had been ascertained on the previous day as follows:—Medical Jurisprudence.—Gold Medal, H. C. Wigg; silver, Thomas Hopgood; Certificates—3, W. B. A. Scott; 4, C. J. Hardy Smith; 5, Thomas Bell Hay; 6, Richard M. Pryce, Materia Medica.—Gold medal, W. B. Gowers; 1st silver, Henry N. Martin; 2nd silver, David Haward; Certificates—4, L. Anthony Killick; 5, Essex T. Williams; 6, Henry Clifford Gill; 7, Robert Pollock. Pathological Anatomy.—Gold medal, John Williams; Certificate—2, William A. Stuart. Practical Chymistry.—Gold medal, A. P. Hurlstone; Certificates—2, Henry Seward, Temple Augustus Orme; 3, Milward Harding; 4, A. Henaman; 5, W. Price; 6, Robert Pollock, David Haward; 7, W. H. Allohin, Henry Cass, Henry C. Gill. Midwifery.—Gold medal, Francis J. Buckell; 1st silver, Henry Clothier; 2nd silver, Edward C. Shoppee; Certificates—4, Thomas Hopgood; 5, E. Cornish, 6, S. Morrisson; 7, Richard M. Pryce. Botany.—1st silver medal, Alfred Henry Garrod; 2nd eq., N. N. Martin, A. P. Hurlstone; Certificates—3, Henry Cass; 4, S. B. Brooks; 5, Samuel Pidwell; 6, Tempest Anderson. Fellowes Clinical Medals.—Gold, Edward Lindsey de Morgan; silver, William A. Stuart. Medical Entrance Examinations.—Second moieties were paid, 15*l.* to Tempest Anderson, 10*l.* to Temple A. Orme, 5*l.* to Henry Cass.

Literature.

EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYED.*

It is a hopeful thing to find so many intelligent and large-hearted men giving their attention to the condition of the industrial classes of our community, and the position which they occupy, not only towards the capitalists by whom they are employed, but to the whole of our social and political economy. The subject certainly demands the wisest and most careful thought that can be expended on it, and every year increases both its importance and its difficulty. The rapid advances of the working men in intelligence and independence, the perfection to which they have carried the system of combination, and the large funds which they seem able to command for the prosecution of any object which they have at heart, have given them a power, which in the absence of wise and judicious treatment, may be productive of great mischief both to themselves and the commonwealth. It is well, therefore, that the whole subject should be thoroughly discussed, and though many of the opinions expressed in various quarters are very crude, and some of the suggestions thrown out sufficiently absurd, yet we may hope that even these may contribute something towards a satisfactory settlement. It is a great misfortune, however, that so many who undertake to deal with the grave questions involved, appear so unable to understand the true conditions of the problem they have to settle. Especially do they fail to comprehend the spirit and attitude of the working man, and consequently regard him as an object on which benevolence may expend its sympathies and efforts, forgetting that what the best representatives of the class demand, is a recognition of their rights, and that the surest way of elevating and improving them is to minister to that feeling of self-respect and self-reliance which may indeed, when developed to excess, betray them into faults, but in whose absence none of the higher qualities of character can be expected to flourish.

Dr. Blaikie is not altogether exempt from this error, at least to the extent of attaching too much importance to the efforts of employers, to contribute to the personal comfort and enjoyment of their labourers. The account which he gives of the different plans adopted in several establishments, is, indeed, deeply interesting, and if it proves nothing else, is sufficient to show how actively philanthropy has been seeking to counteract admitted evils. We quite agree with him, that there has been great improvement in the last few years, much of which is to be ascribed as he says to the "revival of the earnest living Christianity which fills men with the spirit of their Master, and sends them to walk and work in His steps." But we must confess that we attribute more than our author to the influence of legislation, which by the passing of such Acts as the repeal of the Corn-laws has not only largely increased the material comforts of the operatives, but has created the impression that their interests are not wholly neglected by the governing classes. We heartily rejoice to believe that "the great law of the kingdom, 'to whomsoever much is given, of them shall much be required'—has been written by the Spirit on many a fleshy tablet." We agree with Dr. Blaikie also that "the devotion of many Christian men and women to 'the work of faith and labours of love' is one of the most beautiful sights of our age." We would not say a word to detract from the value of the service rendered by those whose good deeds have here found so able a chronicler, nor do we think that their generosity has been either superfluous or resultless. But however desirable and right it is that capitalists should employ some portion of their wealth in church, chapel, and school-building, or in providing their workpeople with railway excursions or other amusements to diversify the dull routine of daily life, there are other and far higher duties for which even such philanthropic labours as those cannot serve as a substitute. One great evil in our modern society is the wide interval that divides the two classes, and which the kindly spirit and munificent liberality of some employers has done very little if anything to lessen. The hearty and fearless concession of the right political standing to working men will do more to create a better feeling than the most lavish expenditure on the wisest schemes that philanthropy can devise. Unfortunately, the subject has been discussed in the way most calculated to irritate and alienate them. They have been told that the security of the State requires that they should be treated as political Pariahs—they have, in effect, been charged with

wanting both patriotism and honesty, and the most terrible pictures have been drawn of the results which would follow their admission to the electoral body. It need not excite much surprise that they should resent such imputations, and should be inclined to regard even the generous deeds of individuals of the favoured class with an evil eye, and to accept them as acts intended to pacify a powerful and dreaded body whom it is not safe wholly to ignore or defy, but to whom there is no disposition to do justice. While, therefore, we thoroughly admire Dr. Blaikie's spirit, and hope that his narrative of the noble acts of some may stimulate others to enter upon a similar course—while with him we would urge upon the working men those habits of economy and accumulation by which they may become capitalists themselves, and while, especially, with him we have faith in the influence of a more widely diffused Christian spirit among masters and men, we feel that one grand and happy manifestation of that influence would be the application of the golden law of Christianity to political life, fully believing that nothing would do more to unite the classes now most frequently found in antagonism.

* "THE LADY INA, AND OTHER POEMS."

The author of the volume of verse before us has produced a prose story of tolerable interest, and characterised by gentle, kindly feeling. But let us say it at once—we are sorry for his "upward glancings at the lyre," or sorry, rather, that in those "upward glancings" he should have been led to fancy that it was within reach. Sensibility he has; culture to a sufficient extent he has; even some musical feeling he has; but beyond this we see nothing in these fragments and snatches of verse. R. F. H. seems not to comprehend that, to be a poet, a man must have some higher power than that of stringing together, by the help of rhyme, the expression of such observation and feeling as belong to every ordinarily thoughtful person. He has got to learn that before we concede to bundles of verse the high title of poems, we must see in them some evidence of a power to look deeper beneath the surface of things than the majority of men do, and to see things in lights in which they do not to unpoetical men present themselves; as well as something of that power of expression which can say, even for those who have thought and felt, what they have thought and felt, better than themselves could say it.

The principal piece in this collection is "Lady Ina." The story is something to this effect. The "Lady Ina" has grown up a favoured child of nature and of fortune. Her imagination has been fed by sweet and awesome sights, in a region of more than common beauty. Circumstances lead to her being much alone; and in her communings with the outer world she seems to hear, still clearer and clearer as she grows up to womanly ripeness, a mystic voice, blending with all that is loveliest around. It is ideal beauty assuming an objective form, and in the presence of it life becomes higher and purer. But, almost ere the aspirations thus aroused take form, she is thrown into associations which lead to her acceptance of the hand of a suitor to whom her father yearns to see her united. Then comes the wedding; and then—the revelation of what it was that voice of the Ideal meant. She is brought to the suffering bedside of one who in his delirium exclaims her name. It was he who, "hovering about her path unseen," had personated the invisible. It was he who, marking her favourite woodland haunts, trained the loveliest flowers to bloom there, and won for her "the wild birds' sweetest chaunts, by learning them to make those haunts her home." He dies; and then she dies—lured on as by the still invisible voice into the waters where the seeming spirit call had summoned her. The story is not so much amiss;—though we do object to the Ideal being transformed into an eager youth, whose ardour has "taught his voice to mock the 'passing breeze'!"—but the thought it expresses is one so common that positively nothing but a subtle and penetrating treatment could invest it with more than a low degree of interest. Here, on the contrary, the mode of handling, the versification, the diction, are all severely commonplace. There is no one epithet that presents an aspect of tree, sky, or water, which everyone has not observed; there is no lingering sweetness in the quatrains which needlessly vary the blank verse forming the body of the composition. Take these two opening couplets by way of specimen:—

"High on a rock a lordly mansion stood,
And proudly towered o'er the ocean flood,
That, distant far beneath, with sullen roar,
Dashed foaming on the jagged and barren shore."

* *The Lady Ina, and other Poems.* By R. F. H., Author of "Blythe House." London: Virtue, Brothers, and Co.

Is there one single word, even here, which a schoolboy of moderate abilities might not have applied—and would not be likely to have applied—in a description of a "castle standing on an eminence," that might be made the subject of his first "verse theme"? The situation is "high"; the mansion "lordly"; it "towers proudly" (all castles and such like buildings do "tower proudly"); the sea is ennobled as "the ocean flood"; the wave of which is "sullen" (a strikingly bold and original personification!); and the foam of which "dashes" on a "jagged" (in prose, of course, it would be jagged) and moreover "barren" shore (most shores are barren); and—this, forsooth, is poetry! "R. F. H." has no doubt heard of the old saw about neither "gods nor men," nor "Pater-noster-row," tolerating "middling" poets. Well—but we will spare him; for we should not have written this much about his book but from an assurance that it would be more kind and faithful to tell him why we do not admit his claim to the bays than simply to record the non-admittal.

We may add that one or two of the shorter pieces better justify their existence than the one we have described in some detail. Nothing, however, could induce us to read the verses about Elar and Edila after we caught sight of the exquisitely naive "note" in the appendix, that "the names Elar and Edila are anagrams of 'Real and Ideal,' even if they were otherwise tolerable. And the lines on the "Final Search" for Sir John Franklin" could only have received the kindly praise of the heroic seaman's lady in virtue of the sympathy which they breathe. But we have said enough; and should deem our words well repaid if they should induce the amiable author to recur to prose; or if he continues to write verse, to keep it in his desk.

BRIEF NOTICES.

The Regular Swiss Round, in Three Trips. By Rev. HARRY JONES, M.A. (London: A. Strahan.) This is no book for the critic. It is one to be taken up and read through by tourist or non-tourist with equal zest. Hard, honest work is the best possible preparation for the enjoyment of pure, healthful recreation, and we imagine that this reward is as well merited by the London clergyman (supposing him to be faithful to his duties) as by the toilers in counting-house or warehouse. There is a vivacity and freshness about Mr. Jones's writing that gives him a special title to come before the public with a book of this kind. Guide-books are all very well in their way, and few travellers would indeed venture into a country hitherto unknown to them, except in the company of "Murray" or some one equally known and trusted; but Mr. Jones has a claim of his own upon the reader, and one, we venture to say, which will be speedily recognised—for he not only writes to guide and inform, but to amuse and invigorate. Mr. Jones's former works have already been discussed in these columns, and we need not now say that he is a man of culture and of large-hearted charity. How true and how well and honestly expressed are the following words which occur in the account of his third trip:—

"There is one drawback to the first blush of a tour which I should be sorry not to feel. The pleasant vision of Alp, pine forest, and snow suddenly kindled by my interview with the smiling man in the Regent-circus office was dashed in a few minutes by my return to the hot, close courts at the bottom of Berwick-street, where my work lies, and where so many of my friends are still working, in the stale, old rooms, while I am sitting here in the shady garden of the inn at Heidelberg, on my way to the iced airs and noble scenery of Pontresina. I wish I had a Prince Houssee's carpet as big as Hyde-park, I would coax the district upon it, and whisk it off for a few days to some of those grand Swiss hill-sides I know so well. Wouldn't the tailors and their wives and white-faced children open their eyes and fill their lungs and tire their legs! What is my weariness at work in Berwick-street since last September, when I had my holiday in the snows of the Eggischhorn and the glories of the Italian lake, compared with theirs? And yet here I am again in the first week of what promises to be another fine outing. I almost feel as if I ought to be ashamed of such a privilege. And yet this sentence looks affected now that I have set it down, for I don't feel ashamed, but I am full of hunger for the mountains I hope so soon to see."

For the information of those of our readers who may be fortunate enough during the coming months to need a "guide to Switzerland, we may just indicate how far the present charming little book will answer their requirements. Here we have a detailed account of three separate trips which the author has made to Switzerland and its neighbourhood. Incidents which would have escaped the notice of the ordinary traveller are so spily, and with so little effort wound into Mr. Jones's narrative of travel, that there is not a dull page in the book, and while he thus succeeds in placing before one a succession of pleasing, if commonplace adventures, he by no means forgets that he is writing a book for tourists, for his directions are both plentiful and useful. Of the origin of his little work Mr. Jones says in his preface:—

"The following little book has grown out of the Journal of the First Trip which was used in lectures for our reading-room at St. Luke's and then published in the *Leisure Hour* under the title of 'The Regular Swiss

* *Heads and Hands in the World of Labour.* By W. G. BLAICKIE, D.D., F.R.S.E. London: A. Strahan.

Round." The Second Trip served the same purposes, and the third, after doing duty at our institute, is now printed for the first time."

The first trip was from London to Basle, thence to Lucerne and the Righi Kulm, Hospenthal to the Grimsel, and by Thun to Berne, thence back through Thun again to the Gemmi and through Courmayeur and Chamouni to Les Ormonds. The second, by Meyringen, Viesch, and generally the Southern Alps, returning by Macugnaga and Bex to Weymouth. The third, *vid* Heidelberg, was continued through Schaffhausen, Constance, Ragatz, St. Moritz, and back through Wallenstadt to Zurich. We need only add that there are twenty-one plates, and good ones, showing the principal places visited, and a sketch map with the author's route indicated on it, of the "Regular Swiss Round."

The Books of the Vaudois. The Waldensian Manuscripts preserved in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. With an Appendix containing a Correspondence on the Poems of the Poor of Lyons, the Antiquity and Genuineness of the Waldensian Literature, &c. By JAMES HENTHORN TODD, D.D., M.R.I.A., F.S.A., Senior Fellow of Trinity College, &c. (London and Cambridge: Macmillan and Co.; Dublin: Hodges, Smith and Co.) In August, 1858, there were placed in the public library of Cambridge University certain volumes of Waldensian writings, which had been given by "Messrs. Antoine et Jean Leger, Pasteurs Originaires des Vallées," to "Monsieur Morland, Commissaire Extraordinaire de Millord Oliver Cromwell, Protecteur de la Grande Bretagne." About these MSS. there hung a cloud of mystery, and much discussion arose as to their hiding-place and their date. Sir Samuel Morland, envoy from Cromwell to the Duke of Savoy on behalf of the persecuted Vaudois, who, on his return wrote a History of the Evangelical Churches in Piedmont, distinctly states that the authentic documents, on which he based much of his history, he deposited in the University Library. Mr. Nasmyth, who at the close of the last century was employed in making a fresh catalogue of the MSS. in the Library, stated that all other writings were safe, but that the six volumes mentioned by Morland had unaccountably disappeared. Since that time great trouble has been taken by Dr. Maitland, Dr. Todd, Dr. Gilly, and others, to search out any existing remains of the early Vaudois literature, and to account for the mysterious disappearance of these treasures from Cambridge. Some writer in the *British Magazine*, supposed to be the late Hon. Algernon Herbert, insinuates the grave charge against Morland and the Puritans, that when a brighter day was dawning after the "days of Oliverian darkness," they spirited away these volumes to some seculer place, finding they were not likely to pass muster as MSS. of the age ascribed to some of them. Trinity College, Dublin, was the supposed place of refuge. It was very desirable that these doubts and suspicions should be cleared up, and that the Cambridge MSS. should be examined, for Morland and his Vaudois friends, and their modern advocates maintained the claim of the Waldenses to have held the pure Genevan doctrines long before the time of Calvin. In the beginning of 1862, Mr. Henry Bradshaw, M.A., Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, discovered the whole of these volumes standing on the shelves, probably in the very place in which Morland had deposited them; the only wonder, he says, is, how they could have been lost sight of. A very careful examination of these writings sets at rest the controversy as to the dates of the Waldensian writings, and refutes the claims of the high antiquity of 1100, 1200, and 1230 made for some of them by Perrin, Morland, and Leger. One poem in particular, "La Nobla Leycon" ("The Noble Lesson") was the subject of much discussion. Near the beginning occur the two lines which Morland thus prints in agreement with the Geneva and Dublin copies:—

"Ben ha mill e cent an compli entierament
Que fo scripta lora. Car son al derier temp."

"Well has eleven hundred years completed entirely,
Which was the hour written; for we are at the last time."

In the Cambridge copy there is an erasure before the word "cent," but by the aid of a glass the Arabic numeral 4 is visible. To prove the certainty of this reading, there is in the MS. marked "C" a fragment of another copy of this poem, in which the above couplet fortunately occurs, the date being written thus:—"mil 'e. cccc. ans." This brings the date of the composition to the beginning of the fifteenth century at the earliest. By this disproof of the higher antiquity of the writings, also falls to the ground the additional argument urged by some for the derivation of the name of these early Reformers from Vallenses or Churches of the Valleys. The name is generally derived from Petrus Waldensis (Peter Waldo or de Waldo, the title being probably taken from the Pagus Waldensius or Pays de Vaud) a Lyonesse merchant who embraced voluntary poverty, and became the founder of a fraternity called first the "Pauperes de Layduno" (Poor of Lyons), and afterwards "Waldenses." A suggestion by Dr. Gilly, in his letter on "The Noble Lesson," that a catalogue raisonné of the Vaudois MSS. in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, should be supplied, induced Dr. Todd to publish the required catalogue in the *British Magazine*, and which, now reprinted, forms the substance of the present volume. The MSS. are, it appears, in nine volumes, many of

them once being in the possession of Archbishop Usher. They consist of the New Testament, with several Books of the Old, a collection of Letters and other documents relating to the mission of George Maurel and Pierre Masson to Bucer and Ecolampadius, and miscellaneous collections of Poems and Prose Tracts—all, of course, in the Romance or Waldensian dialect.

Araki the Daimio, by MONA B. BICKERSTAFFE. (Jackson, Walford, and Hodder.) This is a story of the introduction of Christianity into Japan by the Portuguese. The writer has made herself well acquainted with the manners and customs of the people of that remarkable country, and writes with tolerable ease and naturalness. Apart from the interest of the narrative, there is sufficient novelty in the description of the Japanese homesteads and delightful scenery, to gratify those who have not read much about the "Land of the Rising Sun." The story itself, however, is interesting, being founded upon the sufferings of the converts to Christianity in the sixteenth century, and the intrigues of their persecutors. We believe there is no exaggeration of the worth of many of the early Roman Catholic missionaries in the words of the author, that they were "good men and true, men zealous for the glory of God, and willing to spend and be spent in His service; and of such was the successor of Francis Xavier, who himself founded fifty churches, and with his own hand baptized thirty thousand converts." It is altogether another question how far baptism was regarded by them as the symbol, and how far as the substance, of the Christian profession and life.

Cassell's Topographical Guides. The County of Surrey. (Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.) This handy book contains so much local information that its accuracy can be tested only by great research into local authorities. But it has every appearance of being a most useful, exhaustive, and truthful guide. It contains, besides the Tourist's Itinerary, a history of the county, its geographical features, its division into hundreds, a list of the chief towns and villages with their distance from London, and much other valuable information. It has also eight illustrations and a map of Surrey.

Selvaggio. By the Author of "Mary Powell." (Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.) This is not Miss Manning's best work. A tale of Italian country life would, no doubt, be interesting if drawn from the life, but it would require more than an ordinary genius to mould from magazine articles, newspapers of the day, and religious reports, a story which should possess the very necessary characteristics of life likeness and dramatic interest which we look for in the historical novel. In her account of the introduction of the New Testament into the Papal dominions, it is to be feared that the writer has been led rather by the impulse of an ardent imagination and sanguine temperament, than guided by well-authenticated facts. There are several love matches woven into the story, but there is a great want of originality and individuality in the persons concerned in them. We cannot promise much gratification to those who would be drawn to the book by the antecedents of "the author of 'Mary Powell.'"

EXTRACTS FROM BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

ETNA IN ERUPTION.—Not much further on we came in presence of the actually flowing lava stream itself. Essentially the scene was much more striking than that which we had already witnessed. The latter owed much to the contrast of the landscape, still more to the happy accident of the pure morning light. The former had a more terrible grandeur of its own—one which needed nothing to add to it, and which nothing could have lessened. For a mile, it was said, in width, and to an uncertain length of which a mile and a half might be visible, stretched a mass of lava, over the greater part of the colour of black lead. The extreme edge of the front was twenty or thirty feet high; it was not broken into distorted forms, like the edge higher up, but rose gradually in layers like those into which over-thick paste settles in being poured into a cup, showing to the first glance in how fluid a state it had been. A few hundred feet further back was a second stage, composed of the lava of the new stream, which overlay the entirety of the first lava, and spread besides in shallow depth outside the former margin. This, unlike the other, was tossed into pinnacles, one mass of wild incoherent foamlessness in detail, yet defining with perfect accuracy the contour of the underlying earth, as the deposit upon petrifried flowers defines their form. From its face came no smoke and little steam, but sulphurous gas, like in appearance to that from a lime-kiln, rendered every shape uncertain, and quivered so densely in the hollows as to merge all substance in a dancing haze, destitute of colour. Along the border of this lava was a sloping wall of red, some ten or fifteen feet high. At first sight it seemed to be stationary, then gradually the eye caught a movement of objects on its surface, of stones, or bits of solid lava, fallen from the hardened top, and at last it could be seen to lap slowly on with even motion, licking under it with absolute indifference to size or kind whatever lay in its course. This slow, silent, never-ceasing lapping of the lava gave a sense of irresistible power, like that conveyed by the action of a slotting machine, which cuts into the thickest iron like a conscious being doing a thing unconsciously because of its insignificance; and at the same time it excited a feeling at once of repulsion and of fascination, as do the movements of a snake, probably from the absence of the noise and of the outward evidence of effort which are the usual concomitants of motion. Something horrible there was, too, in the lightlessness of the red. Except where some bit, bulging too rapidly, tumbled off and exposed the more glowing red of the inside, the aspect of the fused

portion was just as gloomy as that of the cooled surface. —*Fraser's Magazine for August.*

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE AT WIMBLEDON.—The philanthropist's uncle, William Wilberforce, Esq., had resided here before, and the death of his father, in 1768, transferred him to his uncle William's care. Most of his holidays were spent at his uncle's house, and here it was that he imbibed from his aunt his first religious principles. She was a great admirer of Whitfield's preaching. "Under these influences," he writes, "my mind was interested by religious subjects. How far these impressions were genuine I can hardly determine, but at least I may venture to say that I was sincere. There are letters of mine, written at that period, still in existence, which accord much with my present sentiments." Afterwards he returned to his mother's family at Hull, where many of these sentiments were removed by the gaieties and temptations to which he was exposed. Eventually, in 1777, by the death of his uncle, he became possessed of the Wimbledon villa. Here was matured the friendship with Pitt, which had begun at college, and had been strengthened by occasional intercourse afterwards. As he was the only member of the set into which he had fallen (consisting, for the most part, of young but talented and aspiring statesmen), who possessed a villa within reach of town, his house was much visited by those who enjoyed the sweets of country after a hard day's work in the House of Commons. His villa, with some trifling alteration, gave him command of eight or nine bedrooms; and here Pitt, to whom it was a luxury even to sleep in country air, took up, not unfrequently his residence, their easy familiarity permitting him to ride down late at night and occupy his rooms, even though the master of the house was kept in town. In one spring Pitt resided there four months, and repaired thither when, in April, 1783, he resigned his official residence to the Coalition Ministry. "Eliot, Arden, and I," writes Pitt one afternoon, "will be with you before curfew, and expect an early meal of peas and strawberries. Banks, I suppose, will not sleep out of Duke-street, but he has not yet appeared in the House of Commons. Half-past four." Numerous short entries in his diary show us the happy freedom of Mr. Wilberforce's Wimbledon life at this period. "One morning," so Wilberforce writes, "we found the fruits of Pitt's earlier rising in the careful sowing of of the garden-beds with the fragments of a dress hat with which Ryder had come down from the opera." "Feb. 29th, 1782.—Morning frosty, but extremely fine. Church—Lindseys—the chariot to Wimbledon. Pitt, &c., to dine and sleep. April 3rd.—Wimbledon, where Pitt, &c. dined and slept. Evening walk—bed a little past two. 4th.—Delicious day; lounged morning at Wimbledon with friends, joining at night, and ran about the garden for an hour or two. Sunday, May, 18th.—To Wimbledon with Pitt and Eliot, at their persuasion. Sunday, July 6th.—Wimbledon. Persuaded Pitt and Pepper to church." Again, in 1785,—"Sir G. Beaumont and Lady Phipps, &c., to dine with me at Wimbledon.—Phipps's chat from Locke to New Testament." This last entry shows the natural bent of his mind, though his biographer says "these thoughts were as yet entirely speculative, exercising no apparent influence upon his conduct." Yet his feelings gradually deepened, and in the latter part of the session 1786 we find him escaping from the gaieties of town and sleeping constantly at Wimbledon. "Yet thinking it an unfavourable situation for his servants, a needless increase of his personal expenses, and a cause of some loss of time, he determined to forego in future the luxury of such a villa." And thus his associations with Wimbledon were closed. We have looked into his private life: want of space forbids us to enter on his public career. The noble career has been well described by his sons. The great philanthropist and matured Christian died on the morning of Monday, July 29th, 1833, aged seventy-three years and eleven months; and on August 5th his mortal remains, attended to their last resting-place by the good and great, were deposited in the north transept of Westminster Abbey, close to the tomb of Pitt, Fox, and Canning.—*History and Antiquities of Wimbledon.*

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.—Without forming part of the group of the actual founders of the Republic, John Quincy Adams, of Massachusetts (born 1769, died 1848), belongs yet to that of the statesmen contemporaries of Washington. The son of John Adams, he accompanied his father to Europe as a boy, then returned to America, graduated brilliantly at Harvard, studied and practised law (apparently with little success), had the credit of being the first who strenuously advocated the absolute neutrality of the United States in European quarrels (in letters signed, "Marcellus" to the *Boston Sentinel*, 1793). He was soon distinguished by Washington, and was sent by him—the youngest man ever selected to represent the United States abroad—at twenty-seven, as Minister to Holland, then to Portugal. When John Adams succeeded to office, he consulted Washington as to whether he should maintain his son at his post. "I give it as my decided opinion," said Washington, "that Mr. Adams is the most valuable public character we have abroad, and that there remains no doubt in my mind that he will prove himself to be the ablest of all our diplomatic corps." By John Adams he was sent to Prussia, but recalled by him on leaving office, not to embarrass Jefferson, Mr. Seward tells us; an act quite out of keeping with the spiteful appointments to office which Jefferson charged on his predecessor. After a period of service, first in the senate of his own State, then in that of the United States (during part of which time he was also professor of rhetoric and belles lettres at Cambridge University), John Quincy Adams resumed office, being sent as Minister to Russia by Madison, and finally to England, from thence he was recalled by Monroe, to become his Secretary of State, a post he only quitted for the Presidency. Like Jefferson at his first election, he owed his Presidency to the House of Representatives—Andrew Jackson, who had the largest number of votes, not having obtained the requisite majority. A man, it will be seen, of the most varied experience abroad, and of the highest at home; of remarkable eloquence; overflowing with knowledge; large and lofty in mind, strong of body; fond of athletic exercises, an untiring walker till very late in life, a first-rate swimmer (while President he might often be seen at sunrise breasting the waters of the Potomac); frugal, temperate, so as to be accused of stinginess; an early riser, who, during his Presidency, "was probably the first man up in Washington, lighted his own fire, and was hard at work in his library," whilst every one else

was asleep; a Unitarian in creed, but a devout reader of the Bible. Most warm-hearted in fact, but with an exterior we are told by a friendly writer, "of at times almost repulsive coldness." he was not popular enough and probably too cultivated for his time. Like all Northern Presidents, John Quincy Adams was only allowed to fulfil a single term of office (1825-29). But, unlike both his predecessors and successors, he really filled a larger space in his country's history after leaving the Presidency than before. The man who had been the chief of the State accepted and attained for seventeen years, till his death (1831-48), a seat, not even in the Senate, his natural home, but in the House of Representatives of the United States. His eloquence seemed to rise, his moral character to stand out purer and loftier, with the increase of years. He became the champion of the anti-slavery party, the strenuous defender of the right of petition, which was actually denied in reference to slavery; brought forward in 1842 a motion for an amendment to the constitution, extinguishing hereditary slavery after the 4th July of that year; was threatened with expulsion, indictment, the penitentiary, assassination, mob-law; persevered; saw the first streaks of a coming dawn in the rescision, in 1845, of the "gag rule," and the consequent admission of petitions on the subject of slavery; at seventy-four re-entered the Supreme Court, after thirty years' absence from the bar, to defend the negroes of the *Amistad*, who, being taken to Cuba, had risen on their captors, and having reached the United States were now claimed by two Spaniards; and had the happiness of seeing their freedom decreed. His death recalls that of Chatham. On the 21st February, 1848, having shown that morning an unusual alacrity, and having composed even a few stanzas of poetry, he was struck with paralysis in the House; lay unconscious in the Speaker's room till the 23rd (his last words on being moved thither being, "This is the last of earth; I am content"); and died in the evening of that day, public business being suspended in token of respect to him, and the public offices being draped in mourning after his death. Altogether as noble a figure as any in American history; statuesque, antique. "The old man eloquent" was his common designation in later years.—*Macmillan's Magazine*, for August.

FORTHCOMING LITERARY PUBLICATIONS.

Mr. Murray's quarterly list of announcements of new editions, contains:—"The Correspondence of his Majesty King George III. with Lord North during the American War, 1769-82," edited, with notes and introduction, by W. Bodham Donne, printed with Royal permission from her Majesty's library at Windsor; "Dr. and Charles Livingstone's Narrative of an Expedition to the Zambesi and its Tributaries;" "Notes of the Battle of Waterloo," by the late Lieut.-Gen. Shaw Kennedy, C.B.; "Dr. William Smith's Concise Dictionary of the Bible," abridged from the larger Dictionary, 1 vol., 1,008 pp.; "Lives of Boulton and Watt, comprising a History of the Invention and Introduction of the Steam-engine," by Samuel Smiles, with numerous illustrations; the "Wellington Despatches, Vol. XII., July, 1817, to end of 1818; a new series of the Wellington Correspondence, from January, 1819, to the termination of the Wellington Administration in Oct., 1830; "Initia Græca: an Introduction to Greek, containing a Grammar, Delectus, Exercise-book, and Vocabularies," by Dr. William Smith, 12mo. (the author states that this work has been undertaken in consequence of the repeated request of many teachers for a First Greek Course on the same plan as Dr. Smith's "Principia Latina"); "Chinese Miscellanies: a Collection of Essays and Papers," by Sir John F. Davis, Bart., K.C.B., F.R.S., author of "Sketches in China," post 8vo; a new series to be called "Choice Travels," and, including, as the first contribution, "Visits to the Monasteries of the Levant," by the Hon. Robert Curzon, with illustrations; "Domesticated Animals and Cultivated Plants, or the Principles of Variation, Inheritance, Reversion, Crossing, Interbreeding, and Selection under Domestication," by Charles Darwin, F.R.S., with illustrations, uniform with Darwin's "Origin of Species." "A Classical and Biblical Atlas," under the superintendence of Dr. William Smith, LL.D.; Part II. of "The Holy Land and Countries of the Bible," constructed by George Grove, Esq.; "Memoirs Illustrative of the Art of Glass-painting," by the late Charles Winston, with illustrations; Professor Von Sybel's "History of the French Revolution," 1789-1795, Vols. I. and II.; "Life, Journals, and Letters of Jonathan Swift," by John Forster, LL.D.; Part II. of "Lectures on the History of the Jewish Church, Samuel to the Captivity," with maps; "Memorials of Service in India," from the correspondence of the late Major MacPherson, C.B., Agent for the Suppression of Human Sacrifices in Orissa; "Illustrations of Brick and Terra-cotta Buildings of North Italy, Twelfth to Fifteenth Centuries, as Examples for Imitation in other Countries," by Lewis Gruner; "Works of A. Pope," edited by Elwin; "New Biographia Britannica, Lives of the Worthies of Great Britain and Ireland," by various writers; "New English-Latin Dictionary," by Dr. W. Smith and Theophilus D. Hall, M.A.; and a "Student's Manual of Moral Philosophy," by Dr. William Fleming.

Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co.'s list of new publications in the press includes the "Life and Letters of the late Rev. Frederick W. Robertson, of Brighton," with photographic portrait, 2 vols.; "Irish Coast Tales of Love and Adventure," by Captain L. Esmonde White; "Claudia, a Poem," by Mrs. Frederick Prideaux; a second volume of the "Life and Writings of Joseph Mazzini," containing critical and literary papers; and "A Working Man's account of America," by the author of the "Autobiography of a Beggar Boy." They also announce the following new novels as in preparation:—"Noel, or it Was to Be," by Robert Baker and Skelton Yorke, 2 vols.; "Faith Unwin's Ordeal," by Georgiana M. Craik, author of "Riverston," "Winifred's Wooing," and "Lost and Won," 2 vols.; and "Shelburn," by Alexander Leighton. Among the forthcoming volumes of their shilling standard series, they promise "Normanton," by the author of "Amberhill"; "Winifred's Wooing," by Miss Craik; "Lena, or the Silent Woman," by the author of "Beyminster"; "Entanglements," by the author of "Mr. Arle," "Caste," &c.; and "Beyminster," by the author of "The Silent Woman."

Messrs. Hurst and Blackett will publish this week in three vols., "The Pemberton Family," edited by the author of "Margaret and her Bridesmaids," &c.

Messrs. Macmillan and Co. will issue immediately, "Sketches from Cambridge," by a Don, reprinted from the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and consisting of—1. Introductory; 2. The Rowing Man; 3. Athletic Sports; 4. Mathematics; 5. Reading Men; 6. The Union; 7. Various; 8. Dons; 9. Tuition; 10. College Tutors; 11. Heads of Houses; 12. Conclusion.

Tennyson's "Enoch Arden" has been published at Boston in a cheap form, price twenty-five cents. 50,000 copies have been sold.

Miscellaneous.

GERMAN "LAMB" AND "WELSH MUTTON."—It is a fact not generally known, that one half the German mutton coming to this country *rid* Hamburg is sold in this metropolis for "lamb," at very remunerative prices. At cost price, this meat may be purchased at from 8d. to 3½d. per pound, and is selling in the butcher's shops at the advanced price of 8d. to 9d. per pound. The Merino sheep run remarkably small, more especially in bone, and seldom weigh more than four and a half stone, or 36lb., each. The superiority of their wool is the cause of their being bred. A large portion of the above meat is, moreover, passed off for Welsh mutton at some of the inferior butchers' shops.

DIMINUTION OF CRIME IN IRELAND.—The Irish Assizes approach their close, and in almost every instance the judges have been enabled to congratulate the grand juries upon the peaceful state of their districts and the general absence of crime. Indeed, some of those learned personages would appear to be like a beauty just returned from a race-meeting, whose admirers have been betting and losing gloves to her. Even in very large and populous counties the sheriff has had the pleasure of presenting the judge with the white gloves, emblematic of the innocence of the district. Some few Whiteboy offences have come to light, but they are very few, and in one instance at least, although the trial takes place now, the offence was committed four years ago. In one or two localities, also, the elections have occasioned riots nearly as disgraceful as our own, and the county of Monaghan is unenviably distinguished for outrages of a character so truculent in their brutality and so fatal in their consequences, that no amount of political excitement could furnish any palliation for them. But on the whole the condition of Ireland is decidedly peaceful, and we fear that if we compare the records of our own Criminal Assize Courts with those of the Sister Isle, the result will be far from favourable to ourselves.

LOOK TO YOUR DUST BINS!—It never occurs to us that in nine houses out of ten in London we carefully hoard up every abomination of house refuse—fish, offal, vegetable refuse, half-putrid bones, and the like—and stow it away neatly in an open ash-pit close to the dining-room windows, and under the area steps. Whether this festering abomination is removed every week, or every month, or every quarter, who knows? It is left to the servants, and the servants must watch for the dustman, who comes when it pleases him, and loves black mail in the shape of beer and shillings for removing it at all. No doubt there are parish contractors bound to collect the dust; and if your dust is not collected you may write to the vestry clerk, and there are all manner of fines ready in *terrorem*. But, practically, all this does not answer. It is a chronic difficulty with all householders to get rid of the ordinary house dirt. The private dustbin is the most fruitful source of disease in great towns. To this may be attributed the unaccountable lassitude, the tendency to sickness, the loss of appetite—in a word, the whole of that lowered form of vitality which characterises London life. Half the people of London are in a state of inchoate typhoid fever, and they have to thank their dustbins for much of it. The Paris practice of compelling every householder to hand out into the open street the day's refuse, and of compelling the scavengers to sweep the streets every day, or rather every night, is an immense advance on London.—*Saturday Review*.

THE PEABODY GIFT.—It will be remembered that rather more than three years since—in March, 1862—Mr. Peabody, the American merchant, declared his intention of placing in the hands of certain gentlemen whom he named as trustees the munificent sum of 150,000*l.* for the benefit of the honest and industrious poor of the metropolis, and recommended that a portion of the money should be appropriated for the purpose of providing improved dwelling-houses for the working classes. According, it was determined to purchase the site of a pile of buildings known as Ward's-place, Lower-street, or, as it is now called, Essex-road, Islington, at that time densely occupied by a community for the most part consisting of thieves, prostitutes, and some of the worst characters in the metropolis, who herded together with little or no attention to morality or decency. The old houses were speedily levelled, and the erection of the handsome structure which is now rapidly approaching completion was forthwith commenced. The building is substantially constructed of brick, and is from a design by Mr. H. A. Darbishire, the builders being Messrs. Patman and Fotheringham, who have also received orders to erect similar dwelling-houses, likewise the gift of Mr. Peabody, in Love-lane, Shadwell, and Commercial-street, Shoreditch. The model buildings consist of four blocks of houses five storeys in height, which will be let out in tenements of one, two, and three rooms, at an estimated rental of 2*s.*, 3*s.*, and 5*s.* per week respectively. Each block will afford accommodation for 60 families, or 240 in the aggregate. The rooms

are each of them to be 9 feet wide and 12 feet long, and of a suitable height. The attic of each block is paved with tiles from the Isle of Wight, and is surmounted by a handsome ornamental turret. There is also accommodation for washing, drying, &c., and at each end of the buildings is a cistern 15 feet long, 6 feet wide, and 4 feet deep, capable of containing 1,760 gallons of water. Everything has been done to render the sanitary arrangements complete in every respect. It is contemplated to erect workshops for the accommodation of the tenants on the east side of the blocks. These, however, although of course under the control of the trustees, will be irrespective of Mr. Peabody's gift, and will be let at a very moderate rental. Numerous applications have already been made for tenements by men whose wages average from 18*s.* to 20*s.* a week—the class for whom they were intended by the benevolent donor; but none will be taken whose character does not bear the strictest investigation.

THE TORQUAY CHILD MURDER.—The condemned prisoner Charlotte Winsor is to be executed over the entrance to the county gaol next Friday, at eight o'clock in the morning. She is, of course, lodged in the condemned cell, and is attended by a female warder day and night. On Thursday morning, in the presence of the governor of the gaol (Mr. Rose), and the chaplain (the Rev. J. Hellins), she was informed of the time fixed for her execution; but she appeared little affected by the news, and simply thanked the officers for the tidings. She has not been visited by any of her relations. She had an interview with her husband and daughter just after her trial; and she then bore herself the most composedly of the three. She sleeps well, eats her meals heartily, and talks about the awful doom so near at hand in a most unconcerned manner, as though it were some casual acquaintance of hers that was to be hung in a week or two. The rev. chaplain has, of course, been unremitting in his ministrations, but until very recently he seems to have been able to make little impression. Hitherto she has spoken very bitterly of Mary Jane Harris, and insists, as she had previously stated, that Harris poisoned the child, though with her (Winsor's) privy and in her house. There are, however, hopes that she may, during the next week, make a full confession. Harris, who is still in the county gaol, evinces considerable anxiety as to any revelations her elder accomplice may make. She has the notion that she will be sentenced to some term of penal servitude for her share in the horrible crime.—*Exeter Gazette*.

Gleanings.

The restored Eleanor's Cross at Winchester is to be inaugurated on the 10th.

Mr. T. L. Plant says that the last month was the hottest July since 1859.

The crops throughout Ire'and are said to be on the whole most promising.

The population of the United Kingdom is estimated at the General Register Office at 29,772,294 in the middle of the year 1865.

Another small planet has just been discovered by M. Annibal de Gasparis. It is of the tenth magnitude. This raises the number of discovered planets belonging to our solar system to eighty-three.

An association, styled the St. Saviour's Society, has been formed in London, with the view of checking the crime of infanticide.

The *Lancet* comes forward as the advocate of the custom of writing prescriptions in English.

The personality of the late Mr. Charles Farnell, brewer, of Isleworth, has been sworn under 350,000*l.* He orders his wine cellar to be bricked up during the life of one of the legatees.

A man named Wearne Ivey has been committed for trial by the Falmouth magistrates on a charge of running a large conger fishing-hook through the nose of James Garland. The prisoner had been drinking. The barb had to be filed off before the hook could be extracted.

On the 15th instant, a widow died in the work-house, Fulham, of "decay of nature," at the great age of 101 years.

A swimmer made a bet of 500 francs that he would swim in the Seine for ten minutes holding a book all the while in both hands and reading out loud. He gained his wager.

At a meeting of the Manchester Cotton Supply Association on Tuesday, it was stated that her Majesty's Consul at Savannah had estimated the quantity of cotton in Georgia at 300,000 bales, and the entire stock in the United States at 1,250,000 to 1,500,000 bales of 480 lb. each.

The Duke of Devonshire has three sons and a brother in the new Parliament, the Marquis of Westminster has two sons and a nephew, and the Duke of Buccleuch, the Marquis of Salisbury, and the Earl of Derby each have two sons.

The returns up to the 1st of August show that the attendance at the Dublin Exhibition since the opening has amounted to 300,000. The buildings and the gardens are now completed, and appear in all the freshness of beauty.

In a recent case before the Bankruptcy Court, it was stated that, by a mistake in the reading of a telegram, which led to a large purchase of cotton, the bankrupt firm had incurred a loss of 94,000*l.*

Rumour asserts that more than one of the shilling magazines now appearing will come to an end in December if purchasers do not appear in greater numbers.

THE TOWER OF BABEL DISCOVERED!—"A Carmelite monk," says the *France*, "writes from Bagdad

that he has planted in the tower of Babel, the ruins of which still exist, a statue of Notre-Dame des Victoires, blessed by Pius IX. There was on the occasion a grand ceremony, attended by many Mussulmans."

A NOVEL VERDICT.—A coroner's jury in Boston returned as a verdict, in the case of a woman who had died suddenly, that "she died from congestion of the brain, which was caused by overturpulation."

The following is a specimen of Western eloquence:—"Where is Europe, compared to America? Nowhar. Where is England? Nowhar. They call England the mistress of the sea, but what makes the sea? The Mississippi makes it, and all we've got to do is to turn the Mississippi into the Mammoth Cave, and the English navy will be floundering in the mud."

CONFUSION OF IDEAS.—When the hustings were being erected in Edinburgh, on the day following that on which Dr. Pritchard was sentenced to his doom, a plain countrywoman, with wondering pitiful eyes, went up to a person standing near and asked him the simple question, "Eh, me! is that for Pritchard?" "No," was the explanation; "it's for Adam Black." "Eh, dear me!" said the tender-hearted body, "wha has he poisoned?"

EMPLOYMENT FOR BARNUM.—After the Museum was burned he asked the advice of his personal friends about continuing his business, telling them first that he had enough to live upon comfortably. Among them he asked Horace Greeley. "Take the rest of your life easy," said Horace, "go fishing. I've been wanting to go fishing for thirty years, and haven't had a chance yet."—*Evening Post.*

A USEFUL PRESCRIPTION.—An actress who is a reputed chatterbox the other day sent for her doctor with all speed. She declared herself ill, and wanted him to write the requisite certificate. "I do not know if there is anything the matter," was the reply. "Let me feel your pulse—just so—a little quiet will set you to rights very soon." "But I assure you, doctor, I am ill—look at my tongue." The doctor looked. "Well, I see, my dear Miss —, it is like you—a little quiet will do it good."

A SHARP LAWYER.—A client, while bathing in the sea, saw his lawyer rise up, after a long dive at his side. "Ho, there, Mr. —, have you taken out a warrant against Burt?" "He is in quod," replied the agent, and dived again, showing his heels as a parting view to his client; nor did the latter hear more of the interview with the shark until he got his account, containing the entry, "To consultation at sea, anent the incarceration of Burt, 6s. 8d."

OUR GREAT TOWNS.—An estimate has been made by the Registrar-General of the population of ten large towns in the United Kingdom in the middle of the year 1865. The estimate is as follows:—"London, 3,015,494; borough of Liverpool, 476,368; city of Manchester, 354,930; borough of Salford, 110,833; borough of Birmingham, 327,842; borough of Leeds, 224,025; city of Bristol, 161,809; city of Edinburgh, 174,180; city of Glasgow, 423,723; city of Dublin (and some suburbs), 317,666."

EVADING A PROVISION IN A WILL.—General S—'s fortune was settled upon his daughters, with the proviso that in the event of either of them marrying a peer the greater part was to be forfeited—a precaution probably adopted from the general's apprehension that his children would be sacrificed to prop up the fallen fortunes of a needy patrician, and not in contemplation of his daughter's hand being sought by one of the wealthiest nobles in the land. Whatever the reasons, the difficulty was adroitly surmounted by the simple process of the duchess making a present of her fortune to the duke, and then marrying him.—*Fraser's Magazine for August.*

THE INVENTOR OF THE SEWING MACHINE.—The history of the inventor of the sewing machine is a most curious and interesting one. The name of this man is Elias Howe. He was a mechanic of New York. Not succeeding well with his effort of ingenuity in America, he came to England, and sold his patent right in this country to Mr. Thomas, of Chesapeake, for 250*l*. Mr. Thomas, some time later, paid 2,000*l*. to a person who made some improvements in the feeding apparatus. Howe was engaged by Mr. Thomas at a salary of 3*l*. per week to adapt the machine to the stay-making trade. About this time the inventor had fallen into such extreme poverty that his family were destitute of the necessities of life; but fortunately he had not disposed of his patent rights in America; to that country he returned, and it is stated that the royalty which he now reaps from home sale and for exportation amounts to 50,000*l*. a year.—*Builder.*

THE NEGRO IN PHILADELPHIA.—Some days ago a lady of Germantown, who was about stepping into an Eleventh-street car down town, to ride up to Eleventh and Green, saw Stephen Smith, a very respectable and wealthy coloured person, on the side walk, who was on his way afoot to the same destination. She invited him to get in also, but he declined, on the ground that the conductor would not allow him. She insisted, and he got in. No sooner, however, was he inside than the conductor ordered him out. The lady told the conductor peremptorily that he should not get out. The conductor said the rules of the company compelled him to turn him out. The lady replied that she cared nothing for the rules of the company so long as they were in violation of the laws, and that she would have him prosecuted if a hand was laid upon Smith. The conductor then said that he would put the car off the track. The lady was equal to the emergency, and replied with increased energy that that also was a violation of the law, and she would prosecute him for a nuisance in obstructing the public highway. This ended the controversy with the good Christian lady's triumph, much to the amusement of the other

passengers in the cars, not one of whom objected to the company of Stephen Smith.—*Philadelphia Press.*

THE CAUSE AND TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.—In summarising a communication to the *Medical Times and Gazette* on this important subject, Dr. John Chapman, among other conclusions, holds that "the primary cause of cholera is, as a general rule, the excessive heat of hot climates, and of temperate climates in summer when cholera prevails"; that "the proximate cause of cholera is of precisely the same nature as that of summer or choleraic diarrhoea, but that it is far more developed, and consequently that its action is proportionately more powerful and intense"; that "cholera is neither contagious nor infectious in any sense whatsoever, except through the depressing influence of fear"; and "that cholera may be completely averted, and, when developed, cured by the persistent application of the spinal ice-bag along the whole spine so long as any symptom of the disease continues."

AS YOU WERE!—The Jockey Club has just lost one of its most amiable members, M. Alexandre Bouchet. The following anecdote is related of him:—"Perceiving one day, after a very heavy fall of rain, a very well-dressed young woman standing at the edge of the side pavement of the Boulevard, and evidently much perplexed as to the best method of traversing the sea of mud before her, he gallantly advanced, took her up in his arms, and carried her across dry-shod. The lady made no objection to the mode of transit, but on being set down expressed her gratitude as follows:—"Sir, you are an insolent fellow!" Thereupon M. Bouchet immediately repaired the wrong by again transporting her, with the same precautions, to the very spot where he had first met her, and took his leave with a profound salutation."—*Galignani.*

CONTEMPLATED AERIAL VOYAGE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.—The *Mechanics' Magazine* states the longest aerial flight on record was made by Mr. Wise, Mr. La Mountain, and others, who started from St. Louis for New York. They succeeded in following the course they had mapped out for themselves until they had crossed Lake Erie, when they were caught in an adverse current of air and forced to abandon their original design, after having travelled 1,150 miles in less than twenty hours. Mr. Low, another American aeronaut, has constructed what he terms an aerial ship, the greatest circumference of which is 387 feet, with a capacity to hold 700,000 cubic feet of gas, and a lifting power of 22 tons. The machine is furnished with many novel appliances for the purpose of elevating, depressing, and directing the machine; and in this machine Mr. Low proposes to cross the Atlantic in fifty or sixty hours.

THE REWARD OF THE FAITHFUL.—A curate of a London parish, of most exemplary conduct, was accustomed to remonstrate very freely with any of his people whose life was not what it should have been. They wished much to get rid of him, but could find no pretext for complaint, either to the rector or the bishop. They therefore hit upon this cunning plan—they drew up and signed a memorial to the bishop, setting forth the admirable character of the curate, lamenting that his eminent worth should not be rewarded, and earnestly recommending him for preferment. Soon after, this very living became vacant, whereupon the bishop, considering how acceptable, as well as deserving, he appeared to be, presented him with it, informing him of the memorial. The good man thanked his people with tearful eyes, rejoicing that they had taken in good part his freedom of speech, and assuring them that he would continue all his life the course which had won their approbation.—*Western Morning News.*

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

City, Tuesday Evening.

Consols have receded to 89½ for 89¼ 90 for the September Account.

There has been little animation in any departments during the week.

On Thursday last the directors of the Bank of England raised their rate of discount from 3½ to 4 per cent.

At the half-yearly meeting of the London and County Bank, held on Thursday, the usual dividend of 6 per cent. with a bonus of 9 per cent., making altogether 15 per cent. for the half-year (i.e., at the rate of 30 per cent. per annum) were declared. The profits, including the balance brought forward, were 125,450*l*.; and a balance was carried to profit and loss of 13,600*l*. The chairman stated that the bank had now 145 branches, and that it was not intended to open any more except under special circumstances. In the past half-year 2,444 new accounts had been opened. The accounts presented showed that an increase of 600*l*. had been made in salaries to the officers at the head office—an item which it would be gratifying to see in other instances, when such large dividends are declared to the shareholders. The report was unanimously adopted, and the directors' allowance was increased 2,000*l*. per annum from the 1st January last. The dividend and bonus are payable free of income-tax on the 14th inst.

At the annual meeting of the Royal Insurance Company, the report stated that the total fire premiums for the year 1864 to have been 406,404*l*., showing an increase of 64,736*l*. over the premiums for the preceding year, and that in the life branch the new policies were 2,041, assuring 1,014,897*l*., and producing in new premiums 32,708*l*. The year 1864 having closed the fourth quinquennial period of the life business, the actuary's report

showed a profit on the last five years of 168,958*l*., from which a reversionary bonus of 2*l*. per annum has been added to policies entitled to participation. A dividend and bonus of 10*s*. per share, being at the rate of 25 per cent. on the original capital, were declared.

Subjoined are the current quotations of some of the principal new projects:—General Exchange Bank, 2½ 2½ prem. Hodges's Distillery Company, par ½ prem. Anglo-Greek Steam Navigation, 1½ 2½ prem. International Sugar Refineries Company, ½ 1½ prem. Hop and Malt Exchange, 3 3½ prem. The Marseilles Extension Railway and Land Company's Shares, 1½ to 2½ prem. The New Issue of 50,000 preference Shares of 5*l*. each of the Atlantic Telegraph Company 3 to 2½ dis. The Northern Assam Tea Company's Shares are par to ½ prem. Chubwa Tea Company's Shares are par to ½ prem. London-bridge Land Company's Shares are ½ to ½ prem. Albert-bridge Company's Shares are 1 to 1½ prem. Wheel Penrose Company's Shares are ½ to 1 prem. Massa-Carrara Marble Company's Shares are ½ to 1½ prem. Down Docks Company's Shares are ½ to 1 prem. London Quays Company's Shares are ½ dis. to par. British India Trust and Agency Corporation Company's Shares are 1 to 1½ prem. Overend, Gurney, and Company's Shares are 2 to 2½ prem.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Friday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, Aug. 2.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued ..	£28,253,805	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	3,634,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	13,603,850
	£28,253,805		£28,253,850

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,558,000	Government Securities	£10,384,900
Reserve	3,508,814	Other Securities ..	21,000,818
Public Deposits ..	5,214,377	Notes	5,607,475
Other Deposits ..	14,881,727	Gold & Silver Coin	833,838
Seven Day and other Bills	567,427		
	£38,515,345		£38,515,345

Aug. 3, 1865.

W. MILLER, Chief Cashier.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE.—To all persons who suffer from bilious headaches, disordered stomach, biliousness, or flatulency, these Pills are most strongly recommended as the safest, best, and quickest mode of obtaining ease, without weakening or irritating the nervous system. Holloway's Pills are especially useful in clearing away any excess of bile which usually produces fever unless remedial measures be adopted without delay. In asthma, bronchitis, and congestion of the lungs they may be relied upon for removing all danger, and by purifying and regulating the circulation they effectually prevent relapses. By rousing the liver to a fair secretion of bile, and quickly carrying it off from the system, these Pills ward off low spirits, listlessness, and those distressing feelings often called nervous.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTH.

GOODALL.—July 28, at Chester-le-street, Durham, the wife of the Rev. Fairfax Goodall, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

GOODIER-SOMERVILLE.—July 26, at the Independent chapel, Wilmslow, by the Rev. D. Horne, of Hanley, John Goodier, Esq., Fulshaw Bank, to Mary Agnes, eldest daughter of Thomas Somerville, Esq., LL.D., Hawthorn Hall, Wilmslow.

HILLIER-SMITH.—July 26, at the Congregational chapel, Titchfield, by the Rev. P. J. Rutter, Mr. E. F. Hillier, of London, to Miss M. Smith, eldest daughter of the late Mr. D. Smith, of Titchfield.

CUDWORTH-HILLAM.—July 27, at Horton-lane Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. J. R. Campbell, D.D., Mr. Alfred Cudworth, to Miss Rebecca Hillam, both of Bradford.

WARREN-LEONARD.—July 27, at the parish church of Westbury-upon-Trym, by the Rev. Adam Clarke Rowley, M.A., Robert Hall Warren, eldest grandson of the late Rev. Robert Hall, of Bristol, to Mary, second daughter of the late Isaac Leonard, Esq., also of Bristol.

OUTING-BAREHAM.—July 27, at Friars-street Chapel, Sudbury, by the Rev. J. Steer, Mr. Philip Outing, second son of Mr. Edward Outing, to Miss Emma Bareham, both of Sudbury.

BAILEY-PATTISON.—July 29, at Salem Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. J. Makepeace, Mr. Robert Bailey, to Miss Ellen Pattison, both of Bradford.

DAWSON-SCRIVEN.—July 31, at Salem Chapel, Otley, by the Rev. C. Hallam, John, fourth son of Mr. William Dawson, machine maker, Otley, to Eliza Emily, fourth daughter of Mr. John William Scriven, Throstle Nest, near Otley.

DAVISON-KEIGHLEY.—August 1, at Greenfield Chapel, Manningham, by the Rev. T. T. Waterson, B.A., Mr. Thomas Davison, to Miss Mary Ann Keighley, both of Manningham.

PANTHER-SMITH.—August 1, at the Independent chapel, Kettering, by the Rev. T. Toller, Mr. Charles Thomas Panther, of Kettering, to Maria Ann Smith, eldest daughter of Mr. William Smith, of the same place. No cards.

WELLS-HEAP.—August 1, at Rusholme-road Chapel, Manchester, by the Rev. Patrick Thomson, M.A., Mr. Henry Wells, solicitor, Nottingham, to Sarah, relict of Mr. John Heap, and only surviving daughter of the late Mr. John Stocks, both of Manchester.

DOUGLAS-PAYNE.—August 2, at the Above Bar Congregational church, Southampton, by the Rev. T. Adkins, Morley, youngest son of Martin Douglas, Esq., of Sunderland, to Emma, youngest daughter of the late Sampson Payne, Esq., of Southampton. No cards.

ALLSOP-KNIGHT.—August 2, at the Baptist chapel, Castle Donnington, by the Rev. T. Cockerton, Mr. William Allsop, to Eliza, eldest daughter of R. Knight, Esq., High-street, Castle Donnington.

DICKINS-TAYLOR.—August 2, at Kensington Congregational Church, by the Rev. C. Offord, the Rev. Rutlin Dickins, of Edenbridge, Kent, to Amelia Charlotte, third daughter of George Taylor, Esq., of Coomer, New South Wales.

LONG-BAGSTER.—August 2, at the Congregational Church, Grafton-square, Clapham, by the Rev. J. G. Rogers, Theodore, fifth son of George Long, Esq., of Clapham-park, to Ellen, second daughter of the late Joseph Bagster of Stockwell. No cards.

CARTER-GILL.—August 3, at Hope Chapel, Salford, by the Rev. J. Allatt, of Newton, assisted by the Rev. R. G. Leigh, of Egerton, the Rev. Frederick Carter, of Tottington, near Bury, to Mary Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr. Samuel Gill, chemist, Pendleton, near Manchester.

LEWIS-DIBSDALL.—August 3, at Union Chapel, Long-street, Sherborne, by the Rev. E. H. Perkins, the Rev. Edwin Lewis, Missionary to India, to Anna Maria, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Paul Dibsdall. No cards.

RUTHER-KERKHAM.—August 3, at Stepney Chapel, Lynn, by the Rev. J. T. Wigner, Mr. S. J. Rutter, Downham, to Harriet, second daughter of J. C. Kerkham, Esq., Torrington.

NEILL-BANCROFT.—August 3, at Richmond Independent chapel, Salford, by the Rev. D. Davies, Joseph Skidmore, second son of Mr. Ald. R. Neill, of Manchester, to Maria, third daughter of Jas. Bancroft, Esq., The Ark, Broughton.

MCKENZIE-ROSE.—August 3, at Argyle Chapel, by the Rev. W. H. Dyer, Mr. Alexander McKenzie, of Ipswich, Suffolk, to Emma Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas Whitaker Rose, Bath.

WALKER-VICK.—August 3, at the Baptist chapel, Chip-ping Sodbury, by the Rev. F. H. Roleston, Mr. E. M. Walker, of Wednesbury, Staffordshire, to Hannah, youngest daughter of Mr. N. Vick, of Chipping Sodbury.

ROBINSON-WHITMORE.—August 3, at Belvoir-street Chapel, Leicester, by the Rev. J. P. Murrell, Charles Stephen Robinson, to Priscilla, second daughter of John Whitmore, Esq., of Leicester. No cards.

HALL-LAIDLAR.—August 5, at Ramsden-street Chapel, Huddersfield, by the Rev. A. Skinner, Mr. George Hall, to Miss Mary Laidlar, of Whitby.

DEATHS.

SHAKESPEAR.—July 3, after a very long and painful affliction, borne with Christian patience, Ann, the wife of the Rev. Thomas Shakespear, Nailsworth, West Stroud, in her 66th year.

WILKINS.—July 25, at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, in the 12th year of his age, Edward, the youngest son and child of Mr. Wm. George Wilkins, late of 16, Northampton-park, N.

SEWELL.—July 27, at his residence, Wanstead, Essex, after four days' illness of congestion of the lungs, Isaac Sewell, Esq., of Gresham House, Old Broad-street, in his 79th year.

BOUSFIELD.—July 30, at 4, Victoria Cottages, Cowley-road, Brixton, after a lingering illness, Thomas Bousfield, aged 58. Friends will please accept this intimation.

CRAIG.—July 31, at Bocking, Essex, Alice, widow of the late Rev. Thomas Craig.

SELBY.—July 31, at Eastbourne, Robert Selby, of 124, Fenchurch-street, and 124, Kennington-park-road, late of 2, Albion-square, Clapham-road.

BERGNE.—August 1, at 24, Christchurch-road, Streatham-hill, Mary Isabella, the beloved and deeply-lamented wife of the Rev. S. B. Bergne, Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, aged 48.

WILSON.—August 1, at 121, Southgate-road, Isabella, widow of the late Mr. Wilson, aged 76, for more than 53 years a member of the church at Hoxton Academy Chapel.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, August 7.

The weather has been very unsettled during the past week, and some heavy rains have fallen. This coupled with corresponding reports and higher quotations from all the principal country markets has strengthened the trade for wheat, and upon the English fresh up this morning an advance of 2s. to 3s. per qr. has been established over the rates of this day week. Holders of foreign wheat are firm, and in some instances about 2s. per qr. more has been realised, but the sale has been mostly confined to the low-priced qualities. Barley meets a better enquiry, and is 6d. per qr. dearer. Beans and peas firm. Although the arrivals of oats are not so large as for several weeks past, still they are considerable. There was a good demand on Friday, at 6d. per qr. over the rates of last Monday, at which there has been a steady sale to-day.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Essex and Kent,		
red, 1863	41 to 45	34 to 36
Ditto 1864	42 46	35 39
White, 1863	46 51	36 39
" 1864	47 52	39 40
Foreign red	40 46	36 38
" white	45 56	
BARLEY—		
English malting ..	—	26 27
Chevalier	—	
Distilling	—	
Foreign	20 25	
MALT—		
Pale	54 61	
Chevalier	60 62	
Brown	47 51	
BEANS—		
Ticks	35 38	
Harrow	37 39	
Small	38 44	
Egyptian	36 37	
PEAS—		
Grey	34 to 36	
Maple	36 39	
White	36 39	
Boilers	39 40	
Foreign, white ..	36 38	
RYE		26 27
OATS—		
English feed	19 23	
" potatoes	23 27	
Scotch feed	18 22	
" potatoes	23 27	
Irish black	18 23	
" white	19 24	
Foreign feed	19 23	
FLOUR—		
Town made	36 40	
Country Marks ..	31 37	
Norfolk & Suffolk	29 30	

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 6½d to 7d; household ditto, 5d to 6d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.

MONDAY, Aug. 7.—The total imports of foreign stock into London, last week, amounted to 26,400 head. In the corresponding week last year we received 14,629; in 1863, 15,775; in 1862, 10,802; in 1861, 9,697; in 1860, 15,057; and in 1859, 10,662 head. Our market to-day was largely supplied with foreign stock; but the quality of both beasts and sheep was very middling. Sales progressed slowly, on rather lower terms. The arrivals of beasts fresh up from our own grazing districts were only moderate; and the condition of all breeds was by no means first-rate. Prime Scots, shorthorns, Herefords, and Devons, sold readily at fully late rates, the top figure being 5s. 6d. per 8lbs.; otherwise, the beef trade was in a sluggish state, and, in some instances, prices had a drooping tendency. Several bullocks, suffering from disease, were seized by the authorities, and immediately slaughtered. By some persons it is described as "gastric fever." From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire, we received 2,100 shorthorns, &c.; from other parts of England, 800 various breeds; from Scotland, 230 Scots and crosses; and, from Ireland, 150 oxen and heifers. The show of English sheep was good; but at least a moiety of them were of inferior quality. Downs, half-breeds, and other prime breeds sold freely at late rates. Inferior sheep were dull, and 2d. per 8lbs. lower. The supply of lambs was again limited. Prime qualities of lambs moved off freely at 6s. 8d. to 7s.—in some instances at 7s. 4d. per 8lbs. Inferior breeds were dull, at late rates. Calves were in fair average supply and moderate request, at last week's prices, viz., from 4s. 2d. to 5s. 2d. per 8lbs. We had a fair enquiry for pigs, the supply of which was good.

For 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.
Inf. coarse beasts, 3 10 to 4 4	Prime Southdown 6 2 to 6 4
Second quality .. 4 6 4 10	Lambs 6 0 7 0
Prime large oxen, 5 0 5 2	Lge. coarse calves 4 2 5 2
Prime Scots, &c., 5 4 5 6	Prime small .. 4 10 5 2
Coarse inf. sheep, 4 4 4 10	Large hogs .. 4 0 4 6
Second quality .. 5 0 5 6	Neatsm. porkers, 4 8 4 10
Fr. coarse woolled 5 8 6 0	

Butchling calves, 19s. to 21s.; and quarter-old store pigs, 21s. to 26s. each.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, Aug. 7.

The supply of meat on sale has been moderate. The trade rules firm, and an advance has taken place in prices.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.
Inferior beef .. 3 6 to 3 10	Small pork .. 4 10 to 5 2
Middling ditto .. 4 0 4 4	Inf. mutton .. 4 2 4 10
Prime large do. .. 4 6 4 8	Middling ditto .. 5 0 5 6
Do. small do., .. 4 10 5 0	Prime ditto .. 5 8 6 0
Large pork .. 3 8 4 8	Veal 4 0 5 0

Lamb, 5s 4d to 6s 4d.

COVENT-GARDEN, SATURDAY, Aug. 5.

Vegetables of excellent quality are now abundant, being much improved by the late rains and comparatively cool temperature which we have now experienced. Of what is termed soft fruit there is a large supply. For pine apples and grapes there is now a heavy sale. Apples and plums are beginning to come in in abundance. Kent liberts continue to make their appearance, but they are as yet somewhat unripe. French beans are plentiful. Good kidney potatoes fetch from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per dozen pounds. Flowers chiefly consist of orchids, heaths, pelargoniums, carnations and pinks, mignonette and roses.

PROVISIONS, Monday, Aug. 7.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 1,221 firkins butter, and 2,158 bales bacon, and from foreign ports, 16,909 casks of butter and 2,280 bales bacon. In the Irish butter market there was a good business transacted, at an advance of fully 2½ to 4s. per cwt. on last week. Sales of best Limericks made at 103s. on board for shipment. Foreign also sold well, and prices improved 4s.; and prices improved 4s.; best Dutch, 120s. The bacon market ruled quiet, but firm. Prices range from 70s. to 81s. according to quality, weights, &c.

SEED, Monday, Aug. 7.—The trade for clover-seed remains inactive and without transactions. New French trefoil found buyers at rather higher prices. Trifolium with limited demand at last week's value.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, Aug. 7.—Moderate supplies of new home-grown potatoes are on sale at these markets. The trade for nearly all qualities rules steady, at about last week's currency. Scarcely any foreign produce is on offer. There was no import into London last week.

WOOL, Monday, Aug. 7.—Our market is but moderately supplied with all kinds of wool. The demand for home use is inactive, yet prices are fairly supported. The transactions for export are limited. The rise in the Bank rate for money to 4 per cent. has checked all speculative dealings.

OIL, Monday, Aug. 7.—Lined oil is firmer at 32s. per cwt. on the spot. For rape the market is steady, at 47s. for foreign refined. Olive, cocoa-nut, and palm oils are steady. Fish oils are dull. French spirits of turpentine 45s. per cwt. on the spot. American refined petroleum at 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 5d. per gallon.

TALLOW, Monday, Aug. 7.—The tallow trade is steady to-day, and prices rule tolerably firm. F.Y.O. is quoted at 42s. to 42s. 3d. per cwt. on the spot; and 42s. to 42s. 3d. for October to December delivery. Town tallow commands 42s. 3d. net cash. Rough fat, 2s. 1½d. per 8lbs.

FLAX, HEMP, COIR, &c.—SATURDAY, Aug. 7.—Flax is firm; the business doing is by no means extensive, yet fully late rates are maintained. Hemp is steady, at 28s. to 29s. for clean Russian. In jute a moderate business is doing, at about previous quotations. Coir goods are steady in price.

COALS, Monday, Aug. 7.—Market without alteration from last day. Huttons, 20s.; Hartlepool, 19s. 9d.; Kelloe, 19s.; Tees, 19s. 9d.; Lambtons, 19s. 9d.; Gosforth, 18s. 3d.; Casop, 19s. 6d.; Hugh Hall, 19s.; South Kelloe, 19s.; Wylam, 16s. 6d. Fresh ships 45; 4 left; at sea, 35.

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At the Half-yearly Meeting of the Proprietors, held on Thursday, the 3rd August, 1865, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, the following Report for the half-year ending the 30th June, 1865, was read by the Secretary:—
W. CHAMPION JONES, Esq., in the Chair.

REPORT.

The Directors have the pleasure to submit to the Proprietors the balance-sheet of the Bank for the half-year ending 30th June last.

They have also to report that, after payment of all charges, interest to customers, and making ample provision for bad and doubtful debts, the net profits amount to £106,821 3s. 1d., which, added to £18,629 12s. 3d. brought forward from the last account, makes a total of £125,450 15s. 4d. for appropriation.

The Directors have accordingly declared the usual dividend of 6 per cent. with a bonus of 9 per cent., making together 15 per cent. for the half-year, which will amount to £111,790 8s. 4d., and leave £13,660 7s. to be carried forward to Profit and Loss new Account.

They regret to announce the decease of their esteemed colleague Edward Higgins, Esq., and have to report that Edward John Hutchins, Esq., has been elected a Director in his stead. The dividend and bonus (together £3 per share), free of income tax, will be payable at the Head-office, or at any of the branches, on and after Monday, the 14th instant.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY, JUNE 30, 1865.

Dr.			
To capital paid up	£750,000	0	0
Installments unpaid	105	0	0
			£749,895 0 0
Reserve Fund	£250,000	0	0
Installments unpaid	105	0	0
			249,895 0 0
Amount due by the Bank for Customers' balances &c.	£10,901,271	4	11
Liabilities on acceptances	2,998	0	4
			13,902,706 5 3
Profit and Loss Balance brought from last account	£18,629	12	3
Gross profit for the half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts	281,860	2	4
			308,489 14 7
			£15,205,985 19 10
Cr.			
By cash on hand at Head-office, and branches ..	£1,531,902	13	4
By cash placed at call and at notice	1,098,934	9	0
			£2,630,837 2 0
Investments, viz:—			
Government and guaranteed stocks	£1,005,714	13	8
Other stocks & securities	119,495	15	0
			1,119,210 8 8
Discounted bills, and advances to customers in town and country			11,163,912 15 10
By freehold premises in Lombard-street and Nicholas-lane, freehold and leasehold property at the branches, with fixtures and fittings			132,305 1 11
By interest paid to customers			74,213 11 0
By salaries and all other expenses at Head-office and branches, including income tax on profits and salaries			85,457 0 1
			£15,205,985 19 10

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.			
To interest paid to customers	£74,213	11	0
To expenses, as above	85,457	0	1
To rebate on bills not due, carried to new account	18,368	8	2
To dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year	44,716	3	4
To bonus of 9 per cent.	67,074	5	0
To balance carried forward	13,660	7	0
			£293,489 14 7

Cr.			
By balance brought forward from last account	£18,629	12	3
By gross profit for the half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts	281,860	2	4
			£303,489 14 7

We, the undersigned, have examined the foregoing balance-sheet, and have found the same to be correct.

(Signed) WILLIAM NORMAN, } Auditors.
R. H. SWAINE,
JOHN WRIGHT,

London and County Bank, July 27, 1865.

The foregoing Report having been read by the Secretary, the following Resolutions were proposed, and unanimously adopted:—

1. "That the report be received and adopted, and printed for the use of the Shareholders."

2. "That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Board of Directors, for the able manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the Company, and that a sum of 2,000l. be added to their annual remuneration, to take effect from the 1st of January last."

3. "That the thanks of this meeting be presented to William M'Kewan, Esq., and to the principal and other officers of the Bank, for the zeal and ability with which they have discharged their respective duties."

(Signed) W. CHAMPION JONES, Chairman.

The Chairman having quitted the chair, it was resolved, and carried unanimously—

4. That the cordial thanks of this meeting be presented to W. Champion Jones, Esq., for his able and courteous conduct in the chair."

(Signed) P. P. BLYTH, Deputy-Chairman.

Extracted from the Minutes.

(Signed) F. CLAPPISON, Secretary.

LONDON and COUNTY BANKING COMPANY.

NOTICE is HEREBY GIVEN, that a DIVIDEND on the Capital Stock of the Company, at the rate of Six per cent. for the half-year ending 30th June, 1865, with a Bonus of Nine per cent., will be paid to the Proprietors, either at the Head Office, 21, Lombard-street, or at any of the Company's Branch Banks, on and after Monday, the 14th inst.

By order of the Board,
W. M'KEWAN, General Manager.
21, Lombard-street, August 4, 1865.

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